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United

Sanitary Districts

Annual Report

For the year 1937,

by

W. SISAM, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

JOHN H. HOOKE, THE ABBEY PRESS,
ABINGDON:
1938.

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Sanitary Inspectors, 1938.

<i>Districts.</i>	<i>Sanitary Inspectors.</i>
Abingdon Urban ...	Gifford Saffin, Council Offices, The Abbey House, Abingdon. (Telephone 5.)
Abingdon Rural ...	T. E. Upton, 60, Bath Street, Abingdon. (Telephone 361.)
Bradfield Rural ...	T. Harold Windle, Town Hall Chambers, Blagrove St., Reading. (Telephone 2293.)
Hungerford Rural	W. S. Raine, High Street, Hungerford. (Telephone 29.)
Newbury Urban ...	J. Hague, Town Hall, Newbury. (Telephone 109.)
Newbury Rural ...	Edwin G. Hampshire, Phoenix House, Bartholomew St., Newbury. (Telephone 174.)
Wallingford Urban	C. J. Flooks, Town Hall, Wallingford. (Telephone 2155.)
Wallingford Rural	C. J. Gayfer, 1 Church Lane, Wallingford. (Telephone 3251.)
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Wantage Rural ...	H. Shepherd, Rural District Council Offices, Belmont, Wantage. (Telephone 211.)

Medical Officer of Health.

W. SISAM, Bank Chambers, Cross Street, Reading.
(Telephone 4647)

WEST BERKS UNITED SANITARY DISTRICTS.

To the constituent District Councils.

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1937.

The practice, instituted by my predecessor in 1911, of summarising in the first part of the report the principal vital statistics, together with other matters of general interest, of the united districts as a whole has been continued.

The remainder of the report deals with each district separately on the lines laid down in the Ministry of Health's Circular as to the contents and arrangement of the annual reports of medical officers of health for 1937.

A good deal of repetition from year to year is unavoidable.

The combined statistics of the ten districts present no very striking features. The birth-rate varies by only a small fraction from that of each of the preceding 5 years. This rate now appears to have become stabilised at about 14.5 per 1,000 of the population. The death-rate is low, while the rate of infant mortality, though somewhat higher than that of each of the 3 preceding years, is nevertheless well below that of England and Wales as a whole.

No serious outbreaks of notifiable infectious disease occurred, and no death was attributed to either Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever or diseases of the Typhoid group. On the other hand, both Measles and Whooping Cough, which are not notifiable, became epidemic and each disease was responsible for several deaths.

The total maternal mortality, which was exceptionally high in 1936, became reduced to a figure only very slightly higher than that of England and Wales.

The results of measures, taken under the Housing Acts, 1935 and 1936, to abate overcrowding can be regarded as satisfactory, considering that in many cases new houses had to be erected for the purpose.

In several districts progress was made with the provision of new public water supplies and systems of sewerage.

Bank Chambers,
Cross Street,
Reading.
May, 1938.

W. SISAM,
Medical Officer of Health.

WEST BERKSHIRE UNITED SANITARY DISTRICTS

THE WEST BERKSHIRE UNITED DISTRICTS consist of the Urban Districts of Abingdon, Newbury, Wallingford and Wantage, and the Rural Districts of Abingdon, Bradfield, Hungerford, Newbury, Wallingford and Wantage. Under the West Berks United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order, 1910, which came into operation on January 1st, 1911, the ten districts were united for the purpose of appointing a joint medical officer of health.

Area and Population.

The following table shows the area of each district, with the estimated population at the middle of 1937.

District.			Area in Acres (Land and Inland Water.)	Estimated population middle of 1937.
Abingdon Urban	...		1,713	7,920
Newbury	„	...	2,612	14,680
Wallingford	„	...	760	3,017
Wantage	„	...	2,797	4,148
Abingdon Rural	...		41,225	15,270
Bradfield	„	...	53,008	14,930
Hungerford	„	...	44,817	8,610
Newbury	„	...	41,660	11,720
Wallingford	„	...	21,772	11,640
Wantage	„	...	74,179	11,630
Totals	...		284,543	103,565

Births and Deaths.

The following table gives the corrected number of births and deaths during 1937, with the rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.

District.		Corrected No. of Births.	Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated popu- lation at the middle of 1937.	Corrected No. of Deaths.	Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated popu- lation at the middle of 1937.
Abingdon Urban	...	104	13·1	87	11·0
Newbury	„	191	13·0	206	14·0
Wallingford	„	33	10·9	32	10·6
Wantage	„	52	12·5	61	14·7
Abingdon Rural	...	305	19·4	140	9·2
Bradfield	„	177	11·9	156	10·4
Hungerford	„	114	13·2	131	15·2
Newbury	„	138	11·8	131	11·2
Wallingford	„	214	18·4	102	8·8
Wantage	„	179	15·4	132	11·3
W. Berks United Districts		1,507	14·6	1,178	11·4

In addition to the 1,507 live births tabulated above, a total of 51 still-births were registered. The rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births equals 34.

The number of illegitimate live births in the combined districts was 70, or 46 per 1,000 of the total live births.

For the preceding 10 years the illegitimate live births averaged 50 per 1,000 of the total live births.

Comparability Factors for adjusting the Local Death Rates of 1931 and subsequent years.

In order to render the death-rates of different districts comparable with one another or with the death-rate of the whole country, corrections for inequalities of the age and sex composition of the populations are necessary. For this purpose the Registrar-General has supplied for each district a comparability factor arrived at after elaborate calculations based upon

the sex-age groups in the 1931 census population and the mortality rates experienced in England and Wales during the three years 1930/2. In the accompanying explanatory letter it is stated that "The factor may be said to represent the population handicap to be applied to the area and, when multiplied by the crude death-rate experienced in the area, modifies the latter so as to make it comparable with the crude death-rate for the country as a whole or with the similarly adjusted death-rate for any other area. Strictly, the adjusting factor applies only to death-rates experienced in the year 1931 on which the several population handicaps have been measured, but population constitutions change relatively slowly, and save in exceptional circumstances, the 1931 factor may be used for practical purposes until fresh population constitutions are available from the next census."

The following table gives the crude death-rate in 1937, the comparability factor and the adjusted death-rate for each district.

District.	Crude Death-rate.	Comparability Factor.	Adjusted Death-rate.
Abingdon Urban	10.98	.85	9.33
Newbury „	14.03	.79	11.08
Wallingford „	10.60	.76	8.06
Wantage „	14.71	.85	12.49
Abingdon Rural	9.17	.92	8.44
Bradfield „	10.45	.83	8.67
Hungerford „	15.21	.79	12.01
Newbury „	11.18	.81	9.06
Wallingford „	8.76	.91	7.97
Wantage „	11.35	.81	9.19

Infant Mortality.

The following table gives the infant deaths and infant mortality rates for 1937.

District.	No. of Infant Deaths.	* Infant Mortality Rate.
Abingdon Urban ...	1	10
Newbury „ ...	10	52
Wallingford „ ...	1	30
Wantage „ ...	2	38
Abingdon Rural ...	9	30
Bradfield „ ...	4	23
Hungerford „ ...	8	70
Newbury „ ...	9	65
Wallingford „ ...	16	75
Wantage „ ...	5	28
West Berks United Districts	65	43·1

* The rate of infant mortality is expressed as the annual number of deaths of infants under one year of age to every 1000 of the live births registered in the same year.

The mortality rate of legitimate infants was 45, and that of illegitimate infants was 32. As a rule the mortality rate of illegitimate infants greatly exceeds that of legitimate infants.

I would again point out that the infant mortality rate of any one district for a single year has very little significance, as the number of births is so small that one or two infant deaths, more or less, make a great difference to the rate, which is consequently liable to annual fluctuations of considerable range.

In the sections of the report which deal with each district separately will be found the average rate of infant mortality for the 10 years, 1927—1936.

WEST BERKS UNITED DISTRICTS.

The following table gives the rate of infant mortality from the principal causes (classified in seven groups) for the five years 1930—1934, and the year 1937.

WEST BERKS UNITED DISTRICTS.		
Causes of Death.	Rate of Infant Mortality.	
	1930-1934	1937
Tuberculosis ...	0·8	1·3
Other Infectious Diseases	2·1	1·3
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	7·1	6·6
Diarrhœal Diseases ...	1·9	4·6
Premature Birth and Congenital Malforma- tions }	18·1	19·9
Atrophy. Debility and Marasmus }	3·3	3·3
All other causes ...	8·5	6·0
All causes ...	41·8	43·1

The figures for the five years, 1930—1934, are inserted in the above table for purposes of comparison. The rate of infant mortality experienced during the five consecutive years was uniformly low—considerably lower than in any previous corresponding period in the records of these districts—and forms a useful standard.

Of the total of 65 infant deaths in 1937, 30 occurred within 7 days after birth—16 of them within 24 hours.

**Summary of
Birth-rate, Death-rate and Rate of Infant Mortality
for the years 1911—1937.**

WEST BERKS UNITED DISTRICTS.

Year.	Birth-rate.	Crude Death-rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.
1911	19·3	12·7	79
1912	19·7	12·3	60
1913	19·4	11·9	60
1914	18·3	12·2	57
1915	17·3	14·2	89
1916	17·1	13·4	62
1917	13·9	14·9	82
1918	14·5	16·9	72
1919	16·0	12·9	54
1920	24·1	10·9	41
1921	18·9	11·1	53
1922	18·5	13·2	50
1923	17·3	11·0	45
1924	16·4	11·6	58
1925	16·8	12·1	56
1926	16·8	11·2	48
1927	14·9	13·0	52
1928	16·0	10·5	40
1929	14·2	13·5	72
1930	15·3	10·9	42
1931	15·2	12·2	40
1932	14·7	12·1	42
1933	14·5	12·2	45
1934	14·5	12·3	40
1935	14·2	11·3	38
1936	14·5	11·2	35
1937	14·6	11·4	43

Maternal Mortality.

Five deaths were registered during the year as resulting from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth.

One was due to puerperal sepsis and four to other causes.

The rates of maternal mortality for the year are as follows :

	Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Causes.	Total
Deaths per 1,000 live births	0.66	2.65	3.32
„ „ „ total births	0.64	2.57	3.21
The corresponding figures for England and Wales are :			
Deaths per 1,000 live births	0.97	2.26	3.23
„ „ „ total births	0.94	2.17	3.11

Deaths from the Principal Zymotic Diseases.

The following table gives the number of deaths in 1937 from the seven principal zymotic diseases, together with the annual averages for the preceding ten years:—

WEST BERKS UNITED DISTRICTS.

Disease.	No. of Deaths. 1937.	Average annual No. of Deaths, 1927—1936.
Small-pox	0	0.0
Enteric Fever	0	0.5
Scarlet Fever	0	1.1
Diphtheria	0	4.8
Measles	3	2.1
Whooping Cough... ..	5	3.5
Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years of age) ...	7	4.0
	15.0	16.0

The zymotic death-rate equals 0.14 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with an average rate of 0.16 for the preceding 10 years.

The highest rate recorded in these districts was 0.71 in 1911, and the lowest was 0.08 in both 1933 and 1936. The rate obviously depends chiefly upon the prevalence of epidemics, and is highest as a rule when both Measles and Whooping Cough are widespread.

Infantile diarrhœa, which formerly contributed largely to the rate—especially in hot, dry years—has usually of late years constituted only a small proportion. The increase in the number of deaths in 1937 cannot be attributed to climatic influences, as only one of the seven deaths occurred during the summer months.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

During 1937, 36 deaths were registered as due to Tuberculosis of the respiratory system and 10 deaths as due to other forms of Tuberculosis.

The following table gives the death-rates from respiratory and other forms of Tuberculosis during 1937 and the 10 preceding years:—

WEST BERKS UNITED DISTRICTS.

	Death-rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis.	Death-rate from other forms of Tuberculosis.	Total Death-rate from all forms of Tuberculosis.
1927	·68	·16	·84
1928	·35	·14	·49
1929	·44	·15	·59
1930	·43	·16	·59
1931	·60	·19	·79
1932	·49	·14	·63
1933	·51	·07	·58
1934	·36	·10	·46
1935	·61	·05	·66
1936	·49	·07	·56
Average for 10 years 1927—1936	·50	·12	·61
1937	·35	·10	·44

Deaths from Cancer.

The deaths from Cancer and other forms of malignant disease numbered 165, giving a death-rate of 1.59 as against an average of 1.59 for the preceding ten years.

The Cancer death-rates of the past ten years, compared with the rates for the whole of England and Wales, are as follows:—

West Berks United Districts.				England and Wales.	
1928	...	1.40	...	1.42	
1929	...	1.50	...	1.44	
1930	...	1.61	...	1.45	
1931	...	1.57	...	1.48	
1932	...	1.55	...	1.51	
1933	...	1.63	...	1.53	
1934	...	1.92	...	1.56	
1935	...	1.63	...	1.59	
1936	...	1.47	...	1.62	
1937	...	1.59	...	not yet available	

The higher Cancer death-rates usually experienced in these districts, as compared with England and Wales as whole, can be accounted for by differences in the age constitutions of the respective populations, of which differences the comparability factors for adjusting local death-rates, as shown on page 6 of this report, give some indication. If it were practicable to correct the Cancer death-rates in the same manner as the general death-rates, the average Cancer mortality of these districts would probably not exceed that of the whole country.

Deaths from Respiratory Diseases.

In 1937, diseases of the respiratory organs, other than Tuberculosis and Influenza, accounted for 91 deaths, as compared with 139 in 1936, 106 in 1935, 133 in 1934, 134 in 1933, 131 in 1932, 113 in 1931, 140 in 1930, 206 in 1929, 105 in 1928, 169 in 1927, 130 in 1926, 145 in 1925, 151 in 1924, 113 in 1923, 166 in 1922, 102 in 1921, 107 in 1920, 125 in 1919, and 157 in 1918.

Deaths from Influenza.

Twenty-six deaths were attributed to Influenza in 1937. The previous totals were 13 in 1936, 12 in 1935, 10 in 1934, 61 in 1933, 31 in 1932, 27 in 1931, 3 in 1930, 80 in 1929, 10 in 1928, 64 in 1927, 11 in 1926, 43 in 1925, 31 in 1924, 14 in 1923, 45 in 1922, 20 in 1921, 10 in 1920, 60 in 1919, and 276 in 1918.

Deaths from Violence.

During 1937, 16 deaths were registered as suicides, and 46 deaths as due to non-suicidal violence. In 1936, the corresponding figures were 9 and 53; in 1935, 12 and 32; in 1934, 10 and 40; in 1933, 6 and 39; in 1932, 11 and 43; in 1931, 14 and 40; in 1930, 7 and 31; in 1929, 9 and 34; in 1928, 12 and 44; in 1927, 13 and 34; in 1926, 10 and 26; in 1925, 7 and 22; in 1924, 5 and 25; in 1923, 8 and 34; in 1922, 8 and 38; in 1921, 7 and 30; in 1920, 7 and 25; in 1919, 5 and 32; in 1918, 5 and 19.

In each of the years, 1936 and 1937, 15 of the total of non-suicidal violent deaths were the result of accidents in which motor vehicles were involved.

Vital Statistics for England and Wales, 1937.

The following table, compiled from figures issued by the Registrar-General, gives the principal vital statistics during the year for England and Wales, the 125 Great Towns and the 148 Smaller Towns.

The corresponding figures for the West Berks United Districts are appended for purposes of comparison.

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly returns)

	Rate per 1,000 Population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.										Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births	Still-births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths (under One Year).	
England and Wales...	14.9	0.60	12.4	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.45	0.54	5.8	58	
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14.9	0.67	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.39	0.45	7.9	62	
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931).	15.3	0.64	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.42	0.42	3.2	55	
London	13.3	0.54	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.38	0.51	12.0	60	
West Berks United Districts	14.6	0.49	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.25	0.51	4.6	43	

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease notified in each district during 1937.

Disease.	District.									
	Abingdon Urban.	Newbury Urban.	Wallingford Urban.	Wantage Urban.	Abingdon Rural.	Bradfield Rural.	Hungerford Rural.	Newbury Rural.	Wallingford Rural.	Wantage Rural.
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	3	...	1	...	1	3	1	1	2	1
Scarlet Fever	10	17	4	2	21	19	2	15	6	14
Erysipelas	4	...	...	1	3	...	3	2	3	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	1	1	...	2	4	...	...	1	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	...	...	5	...	1	2	...	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1
Acute Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	5	6	...	1	10	7	2	14	2	1
Acute Influenzal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	1	3	...	...	5	9	2	10	1	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	7	16	1	2	11	10	7	13	9	6
Other forms of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis	3	6	...	...	5	5	1	3	2	1
Total: West Berks United Districts.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

DIPHTHERIA.—The number of notified cases of Diphtheria was the lowest for any year since the union of these districts, which came into effect on January 1st, 1911. The total of 19 cases in 1936 was the previous lowest, but in that year the disease was responsible for 3 deaths, whereas no death resulted in 1937.

Hospital isolation of Diphtheria is encouraged in all of these districts, and medical attendants are authorised to arrange directly with the hospitals by telephone for the admission of cases, or suspected cases, so as to prevent avoidable delay. Prompt administration of Diphtheria Antitoxin is now the rule whenever the disease is suspected,

In Newbury Urban District a system of immunisation against this disease was instituted by the Local Authority in May, 1936, and has since continued in operation.

SCARLET FEVER.—The incidence of Scarlet Fever was comparatively low, as the number of notified cases equalled just over 1 per 1,000 of population. The cases were of mild character on the whole and no death resulted.

The practice with regard to isolation varies in different districts. In six of the districts practically all cases are removed to isolation hospitals, while in the remaining four districts hospital isolation is limited to those cases in which home isolation is specially contra-indicated—either by illness so severe as to require skilled nursing or by unsuitable home conditions.

Owing to variations in density and age composition of the respective populations, as well as in other circumstances which influence the spread of infection, the results of the two different practices cannot fairly be compared by statistical methods, but the figures, for what they are worth, of series of years show appreciably lower rates of both incidence and mortality in the districts where home isolation predominates.

Though the advantages of home isolation of suitable cases have long been recognised by those in the best position to judge, it is difficult to break firmly established custom, and where hospital isolation has been the rule for many years advocacy of home isolation always meets with strong opposition.

The distribution of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever throughout the ten districts, during the 52 weeks ended 1st January, 1938, is shown in the following table. This period is taken instead of the calendar year in order to render the figures for the West Berks United Districts comparable with those for England and Wales—the latter being available for this period only.

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA AND SCARLET FEVER DURING
THE 52 WEEKS ENDED 1st JANUARY, 1938.

District.	Number of notified cases per 1000 of the population.	
	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.
Abingdon Urban ...	0·38	1·26
Newbury „ ...	0·00	1·16
Wallingford „ ...	0·33	1·33
Wantage „ ...	0·00	0·48
Abingdon Rural ...	0·07	1·37
Bradfield „ ...	0·20	1·27
Hungerford „ ...	0·12	0·23
Newbury „ ...	0·09	1·28
Wallingford „ ...	0·17	0·51
Wantage „ ...	0·09	1·20
West Berks United Districts	0·26	1·06
England and Wales ...	1·49	2·33

The following tables show the age periods of the notified cases of the two diseases:—

DIPHTHERIA.

District.	Age Periods.												Totals
	0-1	1	2	3	4	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Upward	
Abingdon Urban	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Newbury "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Wallingford "	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wantage "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abingdon Rural	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bradfield "	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	3
Ilungerford "	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Newbury "	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wallingford "	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Wantage "	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	—	1	—	—	—	3	5	1	1	1	1	—	13

SCARLET FEVER.

District.	Age Periods.												Totals
	0—1	1	2	3	4	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Upward	
Abingdon Urban	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	—	1	—	—	—	10
Newbury "	—	—	—	2	1	10	2	1	1	—	—	—	17
Wallingford "	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Wantage "	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Abingdon Rural	—	1	1	1	2	9	4	—	3	—	—	—	21
Bradfield "	—	—	2	—	1	3	5	5	3	—	—	—	19
Ilungerford "	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Newbury "	—	1	1	1	1	7	—	1	2	—	1	—	15
Wallingford "	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	6
Wantage "	—	—	—	1	2	7	2	1	1	—	—	—	14
Totals	—	2	4	5	8	52	15	9	14	—	1	—	110

ERYSIPELAS.—One death was registered as due to this disease.

ENTERIC FEVER (INCLUDING PARATYPHOID).—Of the nine notified cases, six were Typhoid Fever and three were Paratyphoid Fever of the B. type.

The sources of three of the cases of Typhoid could not be discovered. Two of the patients apparently became infected during residence outside these districts; the third was convalescent when notified, by which time a reliable history of his movements and diet during the period within which infection must have been acquired could not be obtained.

In the remaining three cases the circumstances were consistent with infection having been derived from a common source—a person who eventually was found to be a carrier.

In two of the cases of Paratyphoid no clue to the source of infection was found. The remaining case appeared to be secondary to one of the other two cases.

The diagnoses of all the cases of Typhoid and Paratyphoid were confirmed by serological tests.

PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—The whole of the notified cases recovered completely. One death was registered as due to Puerperal Sepsis, but in this instance death took place in a hospital in another county and no notification was made in the district of usual residence.

From October 1st, 1937, when the Public Health Act, 1936, came into operation, Puerperal Fever ceased to be notifiable, as such, and became included under the term Puerperal Pyrexia for purposes of notification.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.—The single notified case ended fatally. The diagnosis was confirmed by bacteriological examination of the cerebro-spinal fluid. No local source of infection could be found and the relatives were of the opinion that the disease was contracted in London, although no evidence of exposure to infection there could be obtained.

An additional death from this disease was registered. The case was admitted to a hospital in another county with symptoms attributed to an injury received on the previous day. The true nature of the illness was obscured by the history of injury and by the absence of characteristic symptoms and was not recognised until revealed by a post-mortem examination.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.—The case notified as such was sent to an orthopædic hospital and eventually found not to be Poliomyelitis. The patient recovered from the illness, the initial symptoms of which resembled those of acute Poliomyelitis.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—All four notified cases recovered without impairment of vision.

MALARIA.—The single notified case was a recurrence of an attack of the disease contracted abroad. This was a military case.

DYSENTERY.—One of the two notified cases was of unusual character, as, although the symptoms were characteristic of Dysentery, examination of the fæces showed the presence of *B. Ærtrycke*, an organism associated with food poisoning, while none of the various organisms known to cause Dysentery could be found. This case was in the convalescent stage when notified, and so much time had elapsed since the onset of illness that it was impossible to obtain any clue to its origin.

The other case was due to *B. Dysenteriae* (*Sonne*) and infection was assumed to have been acquired in London, where the disease was prevalent at the time, as no local source could be found and the patient had been in London and had taken meals there shortly before the onset of illness.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The numbers of notifications of both Tuberculosis of the respiratory system and of Tuberculosis of other parts of the body are slightly below the averages of the preceding 10 years.

Little significance can be attached to variations in the annual numbers of notifications of this disease and the death rates form a more reliable guide to prevalence. The table on page 11 shows a considerable reduction in 1937 in the death-rate from respiratory Tuberculosis, and a slight reduction in the death-rate from other forms of the disease, as compared with the averages for 1927—1936.

During the year, 1 death from previously un-notified Tuberculosis of the respiratory system and 6 deaths from previously un-notified Tuberculosis of other parts of the body were registered.

In three instances death took place in institutions outside the districts of usual residence.

General Sanitary Matters.

WATER SUPPLIES.—The total rainfall of the six months, October 1936, to March 1937, was abundant and no serious shortage of water was experienced during 1937 in any district.

Further progress was made during the year with the provision of new piped supplies in the Rural Districts of Abingdon and Wantage. In the former district the supplies were made available for 7 parishes and part of another parish; in the latter, supplies for 6 parishes and an R.A.F. aerodrome were provided.

In both districts works for the provision of additional supplies are in progress.

For Wallingford Urban District the provision of an additional source of supply and a new reservoir was approved by the Local Authority and an application for sanction to borrow money for the purpose was made to the Ministry of Health.

In the four urban districts and in three of the six rural districts extensions of existing mains to meet building development were made.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—No new systems of sewerage or sewage disposal were completed during the year, though sewerage of the village of Stratfield Mortimer, in Bradfield Rural District, was in progress.

Steps to provide sewerage systems for parts of four parishes in Abingdon Rural District, and for one parish in Bradfield Rural District were taken. Local Inquiries into applications for sanction to borrow the necessary sums for the purpose were held during the year, by direction of the Minister of Health, and sanction was eventually granted.

Improvement of the sewage disposal system of the village of Yattendon, in Bradfield Rural District, was carried out.

Improvements in progress, but not completed, during the year, consisted of remodelling of the disposal works at Didcot, in Wallingford Rural District, and the laying of new sewers at Ardington and Lockinge, in Wantage Rural District. In each case sanction to borrow the necessary sums was granted after Local Inquiries.

A scheme for the provision of new sewage disposal works for Wantage Urban District was put forward by the Local Authority, and an application for sanction to a loan was the subject of a Ministry of Health Inquiry held in June. The application was opposed by the Wantage Rural District Council, in whose district the proposed new works would be situated, on the grounds that the works would be a nuisance to a neighbouring village and also with the view to that village being included in a joint system of sewerage discharging to disposal works on a different site. The matter is still the subject of negotiation between the two Local Authorities.

Short extensions of existing sewers and minor improvements of sewage disposal works were carried out in several districts.

Schemes for the provision of sewerage systems for two parishes in Hungerford Rural District and one parish in Newbury Rural District are under consideration.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.—In Abingdon Rural District the former system of scavenging by contract was replaced, from April 1st, 1937, by a system of direct scavenging.

In Wantage Rural District the system of partially controlled tipping was replaced by a fully controlled system during the year.

In all ten districts the refuse is now collected by members of the Councils' staffs—motor collecting vehicles being used in all cases—and is mainly disposed of by means of controlled tipping on approved lines.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The whole of the districts lie within the area of jurisdiction of the Thames Conservancy Board, and it is unnecessary for the local sanitary authorities to take any very active part in the administration of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts.

HOUSING.—In 1937, 970 houses were built in the united districts. Of these 870 were working-class dwellings, of which 176 were built by Local Authorities and 694 by private persons.

The following summary of the working-class dwellings built in these districts since 1913, the first year for which complete figures are available, may be of interest:—

Year.	Working-class dwellings built			Totals.
	By private persons.	By Local Authorities.	By other bodies.	
1913	128	17	—	145
1914	68	8	—	76
1915	14	23	—	37
1916	11	—	—	11
1917	1	—	—	1
1918	—	—	—	—
1919	20	—	8	28
1920	62	32	16	110
1921	80	585	—	665
1922	66	185	—	251
1923	143	2	—	145
1924	144	12	—	156

Year.	Working-class dwellings built			Totals.
	By private persons.	By Local Authorities.	By other bodies.	
1925	192	42	—	234
1926	252	206	—	458
1927	342	412	35	789
1928	188	118	—	306
1929	248	150	—	398
1930	204	47	—	251
1931	201	195	—	396
1932	252	197	—	449
1933	493	50	—	543
1934	886	114	—	1000
1935	708	203	—	911
1936	654	216	—	870
1937	694	176	—	870

During 1937 Demolition Orders were made in the case of 39 working-class dwellings; and Clearance Orders on areas including 46 working-class dwellings were confirmed by the Ministry of Health. These totals show a reduction in the numbers of houses dealt with drastically, as compared with the numbers of the three preceding years. About 700 unfit dwellings were rendered habitable by the owners under either statutory or informal notices from the local authorities.

Grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926/1935 were made in the case of 15 of the latter dwellings and amounted to a total of £1,350.

The abatement of overcrowding proceeded as satisfactorily as could be expected, considering that the erection of new houses to accommodate the overcrowded families was necessary in many cases. At the overcrowding surveys which were completed at the end of March, 1936, a total of 370 houses were found to be overcrowded, as defined by the Housing Act 1935, and an additional 67 have since become overcrowded. The total of 437 had been reduced to 152 by the end of 1937, a reduction of 65 per cent.

MILK SUPPLY.—Apart from one prosecution for adulteration of milk, no legal proceedings for offences under any of the Acts or Orders relating to the milk supply were taken during the year.

Many improvements in structural conditions of cowsheds and dairies and in the methods of handling milk were effected by informal action on the part of the Sanitary Inspectors.

At the end of 1937 licences to produce tuberculin tested milk were in force with respect to 41 farms, as compared with 40 farms at the end of 1936. The farms are situated in Newbury Urban District (1), Wantage Urban District (2), Abingdon Rural District (3), Bradfield Rural District (16), Hungerford Rural District (2), Newbury Rural District (6), and Wantage Rural District (11).

A total of 156 farms were licensed at the end of 1937 for the production of accredited milk, as compared with 148 at the end of 1936. The 156 farms are situated in Newbury Urban District (1), Wantage Urban District (2), Abingdon Rural District (16), Bradfield Rural District (49), Hungerford Rural District (25), Newbury Rural District (33), Wallingford Rural District (4) and Wantage Rural District (26).

Under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme (England and Wales) 14 herds, containing approximately 875 cows, have been certified as free from reactors.

All the local authorities of the united districts have arranged, under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, for samples of milk to be taken and examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. As a rule, sampling is limited to milk retailed locally. In 1937, a total of 73 samples were submitted to examination and positive results were obtained in 5 cases. The positive results were reported to the County Medical Officers of Health of the districts in which the dairy farms were situated, and the premises concerned were visited by the County Veterinary Surgeons, who examined all the cows, took appropriate action in the case of cows showing clinical signs of the disease and also took group samples from the remainder of the herd.

In two instances the source of infection could not be traced, as all cows appeared clinically to be free from the disease

and further sampling of the milk gave negative results. From one of these herds four cows had been disposed of between the time of taking the original sample and the time of receipt of the laboratory report, and probably one or other of these had been responsible; the owner of the other herd stated that no cows had been got rid of since the date on which the original sample was taken.

In the remaining three instances tuberculous cows were found—one cow in the case of each of two herds and three cows in the remaining herd. Four of the five cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order and in all cases tuberculosis involving the udder was found. The fifth cow died before slaughtering could be carried out and was sent to a knacker who stated that the carcass was “rotten with tuberculosis.”

MEAT SUPPLY.—No legal action in connection with meat was taken during the year.

SCHOOLS.—The public elementary schools and the majority of other schools were inspected during the year and all serious sanitary defects were reported to the responsible authorities.

Up to 1934, the working arrangement with regard to infectious diseases in schools was for the School Medical Officers to deal with non-notifiable diseases and for the District Medical Officer of Health to deal with notifiable diseases, at the same time co-operating with one another as regards exchange of information and certain preventive measures; but during 1934 school outbreaks of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever became too extensive for the District M.O.H. to be able to give the necessary time to the search for carriers of infection and unrecognised cases of disease and he was compelled to ask the School Medical Officer of Newbury to undertake this branch of preventive work in that town and the County School Medical Officer to take similar action in certain of the County schools. Both officers readily acceded to the request. Since that year work of this nature has been apportioned between the various officers according to circumstances.

The recommendations of the Memorandum on Closure of and Exclusion from School, issued in 1927, jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education, are followed in the main.

Abingdon Urban District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	1,713
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937				7,920
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to				
Rate Books	...	...	...	2,247
Rateable value (end of 1937)		...	...	£50,315
Sum represented by a penny rate		...	...	£198

The chief industries, in addition to the usual trades of a market town, are fellmongery, tanning and leather-dressing, brewing, malting, and the manufacture of motor cars.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	102	56	46	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.1
	Illegitimate	2	2	0	
Stillbirths	...	4	3	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births 37
Deaths	...	87	43	44	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.0

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	1	9.26

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	10
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			10
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	12
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil

Average rates for the ten years, 1927—1936 :—

Birth-rate 14.8	Death-rate 12.6	Infant Mortality 42
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General Provision of Health Services for the District.

No changes were made during the year in any of the following services :—

Nursing in the Home. Laboratory Facilities.
Hospitals. Clinics and Treatment Centres.
Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance facilities for non-infectious cases consist of a motor ambulance provided by voluntary subscriptions. This ambulance is stationed in the town, but is available also for parts of Abingdon Rural District. The formation of a joint committee of the two authorities for the purpose of providing any new ambulances thought to be necessary and of making regulations to co-ordinate the service was under consideration at the end of the year.

Infectious cases are removed by the motor ambulances of the Joint Isolation Hospital.

The needs of the town are adequately met.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.—The staff consists of the medical officer of health, one sanitary inspector and one clerk.

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Gifford Saffin, holds the sanitary inspectors' certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board, and is also certified by the Royal Sanitary Institute as an inspector of meat and other foods and as a smoke inspector. He is a whole-time officer.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER.—Excepting for extensions of the mains at four points to serve new houses on the outskirts of the town, no changes were made in the public water supply. The supply was well maintained throughout the year.

Chlorination of water from the Wootton and Lashford Lane sources was continued. In addition to tests of the degree of chlorination, eight samples of water from the mains were submitted to bacteriological examination and all showed absence of *B.Coli* from 100 c.c. of water. Chemical analyses of samples of water taken from each of the two sources before chlorination also were made and in both cases freedom from organic pollution or other contamination was reported.

Continuous chlorination of the water from both sources is desirable, as past experience has shown the Wootton source to be liable to occasional pollution when the land in the neighbourhood of the works is flooded in consequence of exceptionally heavy rainfall, while building development near the Lashford Lane well has established sources of pollution additional to those indicated when the well was first tested and a few *B.Coli* per 100 c.c. of water found.

The application, referred to in last year's report, for consent to borrow £8,500 for the provision of a water softening plant was unsuccessful.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Extensions of sewers to meet new building development on the outskirts of the town were made in five roads, the total length of sewers laid exceeding 2,000 yards. In connection with one of the new sewers a small lifting station was installed.

Otherwise, no changes in systems of sewerage and sewage disposal were made.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.—No changes in the system were made.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—Mr. Saffin, the Sanitary Inspector, has supplied the following summary of the year's work:—

No. of Different premises visited	...	...	241
„ Inspections made	...	...	1356
„ Complaints received	...	...	76
„ Defects or Nuisances discovered		...	61
„ Notices served	{ Informal	...	23
	{ Statutory	...	—
„ Prosecutions	...	...	—

NO. OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED—

As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, &c.	...	9	
„ Drains or Cesspools	... ..	17	
„ Pigs or other animals	... ..	2	
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughter-houses	...	4	
„ Deficient or impure water	... ..	1	
„ Unclean houses	... ..	1	
„ Polluted ditches, streams, &c.	... ..	—	
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits	...	—	
„ Other defects or nuisances	... ..	12	
No. of Premises disinfected	... ..	21	
„ Water samples taken for analysis	...	10	
„ Wells closed	... ..	—	
„ Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	...	—	
„ New wells sunk	... ..	—	
„ Houses connected with water mains	...	86	
„ Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food		71	
„ Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	...	6	
Canal Boats, No. of Inspections	... ..	—	
Common Lodging-houses	{ No. on Register	...	—
	{ No. of Inspections	...	—
Milkshops	No. on Register	...	7
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„ „	...	5
Slaughter-houses	„ „	...	8
Milkshops	No. of Inspections	...	23
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„ „	...	14
Slaughter-houses	„ „	...	599
Piggeries	„ „	...	10

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS. I. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.		Inspections made.	Number of written notices.	Prosecutions.
1.	Factories ... (Including factory laundries).	26	2	0
2.	Workshops ...	29	2	0
3.	Workplaces ...	1	0	0
Total		56	4	0

II. DEFECTS FOUND.

	Fonnd.	Remedied.	Number of Defects Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecu- tions.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of cleanliness	2	2	0	0
Want of ventilation	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0
Want of drainage of floors ...	0	0	0	0
Other nuisances	0	0	0	0
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	4	1	0	0
Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts:—				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake- houses ...	1	1	0	0
Totals	7	4	0	0

III. HOME WORK.—OUTWORKERS LISTS.

Nature of Work.		Lists received from employers	
		Lists.	Outworkers.
Wearing Apparel	... ..	2	6
(Making, etc.)			
Offences in connection with outworkers			Nil

IV. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Bakehouses	... ..	10
Others	... ..	34
		—
		44

V. OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector—

Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under Public Health Acts:—

Notified by H.M. Inspector	... ..	3
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector		3

SHOPS.—Inspection of the shops in the town was continued, and no legal action under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences was found necessary.

In two cases exemption certificates under Section 10 of the Act were granted.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—It has been necessary to keep a close watch upon the chimneys of two works from which excessive emission of smoke was noted in 1936. Though improvements were made, the conditions are not yet entirely satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—The only organised bathing place is in the Thames. For this the Council have provided dressing sheds and diving boards.

Beyond the purchase of property for the purpose of providing a swimming pool, no further action towards the provision of better facilities for bathing was taken during the year.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—One Council house and three other houses were found during the year to be infested with bugs, and all were disinfested by spraying with a liquid insecticide.

The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses have, since October, 1936, consisted of treatment by Hydrocyanic Acid gas carried out by contract.

Supervision and education of tenants to prevent infestation, or re-infestation after cleansing, are carried out by the Housing Manager in the case of Council houses and by the Sanitary Inspector in the case of other houses.

SCHOOLS.—The public elementary schools were inspected during the year and no serious defects of sanitation were found. All the schools have good supplies of water from the public mains and all are provided with water-closets and drainage connected with the public sewers.

HOUSING.

During the year a total of 44 dwelling-houses, all of working class type, were erected. Of these, 30 were built by private persons and 14 formed part of the Council's re-housing scheme of 68 dwellings.

A further re-housing scheme of 90 dwellings has been approved.

Clearance Orders upon 8 areas, which included 48 dwellings, were made and the Orders were eventually confirmed, excepting in the case of 2 dwellings.

The Council's scheme for demolition of unfit dwellings and re-housing of the occupants is now approaching completion.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected
for housing defects (under Public Health or
Housing Acts) 111

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1,160

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under
sub-head (1) above) which were inspected
and recorded under the Housing Consolidated
Regulations, 1925 88

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 847

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state
so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit
for human habitation 55

(4) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those
referred to under the preceding sub-head) found
not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human
habitation 50

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF
FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in
consequence of informal action by the Local
Authority or their officers 33

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

A.—*Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the
Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 9, 10 and 16 of
the Housing Act, 1936:—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 1

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—* Nil

C — *Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 1

D. — *Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV. OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 33

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 33

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 244

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 3

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved
during the year ... 6

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 41

(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses
have again become overcrowded after the
Local Authority have taken steps for the
abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—No legal action was taken during the year, but several offences were remedied in consequence of informal action. These included one case of failure to notify infectious disease in the family of a cowkeeper, two cases of selling milk without being registered and two cases of selling milk from vehicles which were not inscribed with the names and addresses of the vendors.

The structural conditions at one dairy farm were improved by the reconditioning of the milking sheds, the provision of a new dairy and the concreting of the yard. The registered cowkeepers remained at 5 in number, and the retail purveyors were reduced from 20 to 19 during the year.

Designated milk retailed under licence in the town, but produced and bottled outside, consisted of Tuberculin Tested milk sold by 4 retailers.

Pasteurisation of milk, previously carried out under licence by one retailer, was discontinued during the year.

No samples of milk were submitted to analysis on behalf of the Local Authority.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The number of slaughter-houses remained unchanged at a total of 8, of which 3 are registered and 5 licensed.

Licences granted to slaughtermen, under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, totalled 28.

New byelaws with respect to slaughter-houses came into operation on the 1st February, 1937.

The following table gives details of the meat inspections carried out:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)		not	known		
Number inspected ...	158	27	333	451	1519
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	2	9	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	4	—	2	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1·89	14·81	·60	2·44	1·51
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	·63	—	—	—	1·58

No attempt had been made to sell any of the meat found to be unfit for human consumption, and voluntary surrender was accepted in all cases. Condemned meat was disposed of by either burning or burial, and due precautions to ensure that no portion was used for human consumption were taken.

Premises where food, other than butchers' meat, is manufactured, sold, or prepared for sale were frequently inspected. Articles found to be unfit for human consumption consisted of 102 lbs. of bacon, 181 lbs. of imported beef and 10 lbs. of tinned prawns, all of which showed signs of decomposition. The whole were voluntarily surrendered and were disposed of by burial.

The number of bakehouses was increased from 9 to 10. Excepting for one instance of delay in carrying out the statutory limewashing, no defects of any consequence were found.

No legal action in connection with meat or other foods was taken during the year.

**Prevalence of, and Control over,
Infectious and other Diseases.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	—	—	—
Diphtheria	3	3	—
Scarlet Fever	10	10	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—
Pneumonia	6	2	3 (all forms
Erysipelas	4	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—

The three cases of Diphtheria were members of one family. The first case was of mild character and no medical attendance was sought until the other two persons contracted the disease about a fortnight later.

The cases of Scarlet Fever presented no features of special interest.

Both cases of Puerperal Pyrexia recovered completely.

During the year, the following cases of infectious disease, totalling 152, were admitted from various districts to Abingdon Joint Isolation Hospital.—

DISTRICTS.	DISEASES.							
	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Meningitis	Puerperal Fever.	Observation Cases.	
Abingdon Urban	3	10	3	—	1	—	1	18
Abingdon Rural	1	16	—	2	—	1	4	24
Bradfield Rural	1	2	—	3	—	—	—	6
Faringdon Rural	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	6
Hungerford Rural	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Newbury Urban	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Wallingford Rural	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Wantage Urban	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Wantage Rural	1	5	—	—	—	—	1	7
Districts in Oxfordshire	40	39	—	4	—	—	2	85
Totals	48	79	4	11	1	1	8	152

TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age Periods.			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	—	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	—	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	—	15	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
15	—	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	—	25	...	2	1	...	1	1	1	1
25	—	35	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	—	45	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	—	55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	—	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			3	4	1	2	1	1	1	1

One of the fatal cases of non-respiratory Tuberculosis had not been notified. A notice drawing attention to the omission to notify was sent to the medical practitioner concerned.

OTHER CAUSES OF SICKNESS.—Apart from Measles and Whooping Cough, which were prevalent in the first quarter of the year but caused no deaths, and Influenza, which was most prevalent in January and was responsible for one death, no noteworthy causes of sickness were evident.

No school was closed on account of infectious disease, nor was the attendance at any school reduced to below 60 per cent. of the average.

LABORATORY WORK, ETC.—The local authority have undertaken to bear the cost of examinations for Diphtheria Bacilli and also of other bacteriological examinations conducted in the interest of the public health. In practice, however, the majority of specimens are sent from the Joint Isolation Hospital, as it is the custom to admit suspected cases of Diphtheria

and Enteric to that institution without waiting for bacteriological confirmation of diagnosis. Specimens are sent from the hospital to the laboratory of the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford ; but the number submitted for examination in 1937 cannot be given, as separate records for each district are not kept.

Apart from Isolation Hospital specimens, examinations made at the cost of the local authority consisted of 5 swabs examined for Diphtheria Bacilli, with negative results in all cases. These examinations were made at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied to practitioners from my office at the cost of the local authority, but none was issued during the year. As a rule, Antitoxin is first administered in the Isolation Hospital, as suspected cases of Diphtheria are promptly admitted on receipt of a message from the medical attendant.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ABINGDON URBAN DISTRICT, 1937.

45

CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES	FEMALES
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	43	44
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2 Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4 Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6 Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
7 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
10 Other tuberculous diseases...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
11 Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	5
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
17 Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
19 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
22 Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
24 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
29 Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
32 Senility	...	...	...	...	...	4	7
33 Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
34 Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
35 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)							
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year							
				Total	...	—	1
				Legitimate	...	—	1
				Illegitimate	..	—	—
LIVE BIRTHS							
				Total	...	58	46
				Legitimate	...	56	46
				Illegitimate	...	2	—
STILLBIRTHS							
				Total	...	3	1
				Legitimate	...	3	1
				Illegitimate	...	—	—
POPULATION	...	...	...	...	...	7,920	

Abingdon Rural District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	41,225
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937				15,270
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to				
Rate Books	...	...	...	4,499
Rateable value (end of 1937)		...	...	£113,621
Sum represented by a penny rate		...	...	£445

The district is chiefly agricultural and residential in character. A Royal Air Force stores depôt is established at Milton, and an Air Ministry aerodrome at Shippon.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	295	156	139	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 19·4
	Illegitimate	10	5	5	
Stillbirths	...	6	3	3	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births 19
Deaths	...	140	69	71	
					} Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 9·2

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	...	1	3·28
Other puerperal causes		1	3·28

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	30
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			31
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	21
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	3
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

Average rates for the ten years, 1927—1936 :—

Birth-rate 17·4	Death-rate 10·5	Infant Mortality 41
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General Provision of Health Services for the District.

No changes were made during the year in any of the following services :—

Laboratory Facilities. Hospitals. Clinics and Treatment Centres. Ambulance Facilities.

Changes made in Home Nursing services consisted of the extension of the midwifery and maternity services provided by the Appleton Nursing Association to the parishes of Frilford and Marcham.

The whole district is now covered for midwifery and maternity services, and all but the parish of Wytham for general nursing also.

Though the ambulance services have remained unchanged, there is prospect of improvement of the provision for non-infectious cases through the co-operation of the local authorities of this district and of Abingdon Urban District with a view to the provision of any additional ambulances thought to be necessary and of the co-ordination of the service to the best advantage of both districts.

The provision for infectious cases is adequately met by the motor ambulances of Abingdon Joint Isolation Hospital.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.—The staff consists of Mr. Upton, the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Cooke, Additional Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. Stanley, Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor of New Buildings.

All three are whole-time officers.

Mr. Hill, who formerly occupied the post of Assistant Sanitary Inspector, resigned during the year on account of ill-health and was succeeded by Mr. Cooke, who began duty on July 1st.

Both Mr. Upton and Mr. Cooke hold the certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute, as sanitary inspectors and also as inspectors of meat and other foods. Mr. Stanley holds the certificate of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER.—No shortage of water was experienced during the year.

The comprehensive scheme, referred to in the annual reports for 1935 and 1936, for the provision of public supplies in ten contributory places was almost completed by the end of 1937.

The supply, which is derived from the City of Oxford waterworks, became available for seven of the contributory places and for part of another, viz.—for Appleton with Eaton, Bessels Leigh, Draycott Moor, Fyfield, Kingston Bagpuize, St. Helen Without and Tubney, together with part of Marcham. On completion of the scheme, only 3 of the total of 24 parishes in the district will be without public water supplies. This scheme has involved the laying of about 26 miles of mains and the construction in the district of a service reservoir of 300,000 gallons capacity. The water is derived from the Thames and is subjected to continuous chlorination, the efficiency of which is frequently tested by bacteriological examinations of samples of the water.

To meet new building development, extensions of water mains were carried out at Drayton, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay, which villages, together with the village of Milton, have a joint supply. The whole cost of the extensions was recovered from the developers.

The proposed extension to Milton Hill, which was referred to in the reports of the preceding two years, is still under consideration.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Some progress towards the provision of a system of sewerage and sewage disposal for Botley and Kennington was made during the year. An application for consent to borrow £59,050 for the purpose was the subject of a Ministry of Health Inquiry held in July, and, at the same time, an Inquiry was held upon a submission for confirmation of an Order made by the Council authorising them to purchase compulsorily, for the purpose of sewage disposal, a piece of land for which offers to purchase had been refused.

The application for sanction to the loan was successful, subject to certain modifications of the scheme, and the Order for compulsory purchase was eventually confirmed.

In view of the extreme urgency of providing sewerage for Botley, without waiting for the completion of the whole

scheme, a project to lay certain sections of the main sewers and to provide temporary outfall works was approved by the Council and placed before the Ministry of Health. The Ministry gave provisional sanction to tenders for the sewers being obtained, but ruled that the temporary outfall works should be regarded as a separate contract.

It is hoped that this work will shortly be commenced.

Recent extensive building development in the Wootton Road and Sandford Lane areas has given rise to the need of sewerage; and as these areas are on the outskirts of Abingdon Urban District the provision of a system of sewerage to connect with the sewers of the town is under the consideration of the two authorities.

The question of sewerage the Milton Hill Estate, which was formerly under one ownership and possessed a private sewerage system, is also under consideration. The estate has now been broken up and is likely to be further developed to an extent which will render the existing sewers and sewage disposal system inadequate.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—From April 1st, 1937, a system of direct collection and disposal of domestic refuse has replaced the former system of scavenging by contract.

Collections are made weekly in 6 parishes and fortnightly in the remainder of the district. A side-loading, motor vehicle, of 12 cubic yards capacity, is used, and a commercial lorry, acquired for general use, is available for collection in case of breakdown or other emergency. Garage accommodation was provided by direct labour.

Four tips are in use and controlled tipping is carried out in each case.

So far, the system has worked smoothly and satisfactorily, but, owing to rapid building development in parts of the district, some rearrangement will be necessary in the near future with a view to increasing the frequency of collection.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT:—
Mr. T. E. Upton, Sanitary Inspector, has supplied the following information:—

No. of Different premises visited	...	...	920
„ Inspections made	...	...	1482
„ Complaints received	...	...	43
„ Defects or Nuisances discovered		...	103
„ Notices served	{ Informal	...	93
	{ Statutory	...	35
„ Prosecutions	...	...	—

NO. OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED—

As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, &c.	...	7
„ Drains or Cesspools	...	6
„ Pigs or other animals	...	3
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughter-houses	...	23
„ Deficient or impure water	...	13
„ Unclean houses	...	1
„ Overcrowded houses	...	11
„ Polluted ditches, streams, &c.	...	5
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits	...	4
„ Other defects or nuisances	...	17
No. of Premises disinfected	...	38
„ Water samples taken for analysis	...	9
„ Wells closed	...	1*
„ Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	...	1
„ New wells sunk	...	7

* Many additional wells fell into disuse upon the provision of public supplies.

No. of Houses connected with water mains	...	...	442
„ Water certificates granted	...	...	224
„ Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food			6
„ Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	...		—
Canal Boats, No. of Inspections	...	...	—
Common Lodging-houses	{ No. on Register		...
	{ No. of Inspections		...
Milkshops	No. on Register	...	2
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„ „	...	96
Slaughter-houses	„ „	...	3
Milkshops	No. of Inspections	...	3
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„ „	...	197
Slaughter-houses	„ „	...	17
Piggeries	„ „	...	13

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

I. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Inspections made.	Number of written notices.	Prosecutions.
1. Factories ... (Including factory laundries).	5	0	0
2. Workshops ... (Including workshop laundries).	13	0	0
3. Workplaces ...	9	0	0
Total	27	0	0

II. DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found.	Remedied.	Number of Defects Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecu- tions.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	2	2	0	0
Want of ventilation	0	0	0	0
Want of drainage of floors ...	0	0	0	0
Other nuisances	0	0	0	0
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	1	1	0	0
Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake- houses ...	0	0	0	0
Other Offences	0	0	0	0
Totals	3	3	0	0

III. HOME WORK.—OUTWORKERS LISTS.

Nature of Work.	Lists received from employers Lists. Outworkers.	
Wearing Apparel ... (Making. etc.)	...	3 6
Offences in connection with outworkers		Nil

IV. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	11
Others	...	...	...	10
				—
				21

V. OTHER MATTERS.

Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under Public Health Acts:—

Notified by H.M. Inspector	...	...	1
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector			1

SHOPS.—Under the Shops Act, 1934, inspections were made of 28 shops and no action was found necessary.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No reason for action was found.

SWIMMING BATHS OR POOLS.—The district contains no swimming baths or pools open to the public.

SCHOOLS.—The elementary schools in the district were inspected during the year and any serious defects of sanitation were reported to the responsible authorities. It is hoped that full advantage will be taken of the opportunities now provided, and in course of provision, of laying on the public water supply to schools now dependent upon wells.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—The only dwelling found to be infested with bugs was a Council house, which was effectually dealt with by spraying with a liquid insecticide. Bugs are very rarely found in the district, and, up to the present, no special measures to ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses have been considered necessary.

Housing.

A total of 379 houses were erected during the year. Of these, 359 are working-class dwellings, 12 of which were provided by the Local Authority.

Under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, grants amounting to a total of £300, were promised towards the reconditioning of 4 dwellings, and the work was approaching completion at the close of the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	235
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	276
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	111
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	154
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	27
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	60

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	21
--	----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

A.— <i>Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</i>	Nil
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B.— <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—</i>	Nil
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C.—*Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	12

D.—*Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930* Nil

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	50
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	55
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	329
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	11
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	55
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	Nil

In addition to the houses tabulated as having been rendered fit in consequence of informal action, 9 houses which had been represented for Demolition Orders were afterwards rendered fit by the owners without Demolition Orders having been made.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—No legal action was taken during the year. A total of 38 informal notices were served requiring various defects of cowsheds or dairies to be remedied and the following improvements were effected in consequence:—

New milking sheds erected	4
Water supplies improved	7
General cleansing (apart from lime-washing) carried out	6
Lighting and ventilation improved	8
New drainage provided or existing drainage improved	7
New floors laid	4
Dairies improved	4

In addition to the above, arrangements were made whereby 5 unsatisfactory cowsheds ceased to be used as milking sheds.

Nine samples of undesignated milk retailed within the district were submitted to examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and in one case a positive result was obtained on animal inoculation. The result was reported to the County Medical Officer and investigations by the County Veterinary Officers were made. No signs or symptoms of Tuberculosis could be found on clinical examination of the cows in the herd, but further group and individual samples of milk traced the source to one cow. This cow was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, and found on post-mortem examination to be in an advanced stage of the disease within the meaning of the Order.

At the close of the year 3 farms were licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk and 16 for the production of Accredited Milk. One of the dairy herds in the district is attested, under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme (England and Wales), as being free from reactors to tuberculin.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The district contains 3 slaughter-houses only, all of which are licensed. In one of these no slaughtering was carried out during the year; in the other two only a very small trade was done.

The following table shows the number of animals inspected and the number of cases in which meat was condemned:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected ...	—	4	—	—	49
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	4·1
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	8·2

All condemned meat was voluntarily surrendered and was disposed of by burial under supervision.

Apart from meat, no article of food unfit for human consumption was discovered.

The 11 bakehouses in the district were satisfactorily conducted on the whole.

Prevalence of, and Control over,
Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.			Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	21	16	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...			2	2	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	1*	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	5	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	15	1*	5 (all forms)
Erysipelas	...	...	3	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	—	1*	1

* Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
2	2	0	2	0	0	0

The single case of Diphtheria was an adult whose source of infection could not be discovered.

Scarlet Fever broke out in 11 different parishes, none of which had more than 4 cases. Of the total of 21 cases, 19 were primary and 2 were secondary to previous cases in the same

house. Although 12 of the 19 primary cases were school-children, no evidence of infection having been acquired at school was suggested excepting in the case of two children who attended schools outside the district, in which schools other cases had occurred a short time previously. No school within the district had more than one case.

The two cases tabulated as Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) were Paratyphoid Fever of the B type. These cases arose in adjoining houses and their respective onsets of illness were separated by an interval of about 10 days. There had been a good deal of intercommunication between the two families during the interval between the onset of illness of the first case and the recognition of the nature of the disease and infection was probably conveyed from the one person to the other. The illness of the first patient was preceded by severe and protracted diarrhoea in three other members of his household, but subsequent agglutination tests of the serum of these persons gave negative reactions to Typhoid and Paratyphoid.

The diagnoses of the two notified cases were confirmed by agglutination tests, and the cases ran typical courses to recovery.

Search for the origin of the first case was hampered by late notification—over a fortnight after the onset of illness.

Although no notification of Puerperal Fever was received, one death from this disease was registered. The patient was admitted to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

All of the notified cases of Puerperal Pyrexia ended in complete recovery.

One death was registered as due to Cerebro-Spinal Fever. The case was admitted to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, with a history of an injury having been received on the previous

day. The symptoms were not characteristic of the disease, which was not diagnosed until a post-mortem examination was made.

A death in an institution outside the district was certified as due to Encephalitis Lethargica. Enquiries showed that the disease was of many years duration. Only the acute form of this disease is notifiable.

TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age Periods.			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
1	—	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	—	10	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
10	—	15	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	—	20	...	1	...	..	...	1	...	...
20	—	25	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
25	—	35	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
35	—	45	2	3	1	...	3	1	...	...
45	—	55	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	—	65	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			3	8	4	1	5	2	1	1

One of the two fatal cases of non-respiratory Tuberculosis had not been notified. Death occurred in an institution outside the district. The seven fatal cases of respiratory Tuberculosis had been duly notified.

OTHER CAUSES OF SICKNESS.—Influenza was prevalent in the early part of the year, and 2 deaths were registered as due to this disease; Measles continued to spread during the first half of 1937, but caused no deaths; and Whooping Cough, which was responsible for 3 deaths, was prevalent chiefly in the first half of the year.

No school was closed for infectious disease, but at the following schools the attendance was reduced to below 60 per cent. of the average by the diseases and during the periods stated.

Marcham C. of E.	Influenza	1 week in January
„ „ „ „	Whooping Cough	1 „ „ March
Steventon C. of E.	Whooping Cough & Measles	4 weeks in March
N. Hinksey C. of E.	Chickenpox	1 week in March
Kennington	Measles & Mumps	1 „ „ May

LABORATORY WORK, ETC.—The Local Authority bear the cost of bacteriological examinations for Diphtheria Bacilli, and also, on the recommendation of the medical officer of health, the cost of other bacteriological examinations necessary in the interests of the public health.

During the year, in addition to specimens sent from Abingdon Joint Isolation Hospital, 6 swabs were examined for Diphtheria Bacilli, with 1 positive and 5 negative results. These swabs were examined at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied to medical practitioners from my office, at the cost of the Local Authority, and 16,000 units were issued during the year. In this district Antitoxin is frequently first administered at the Abingdon Joint Isolation Hospital, to which cases and suspected cases of Diphtheria are promptly removed at the request of the medical attendants.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN
ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT, 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES	FEMALES
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	69	71
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers			...	...	...	—	—
2 Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet fever	...	..	...	...	...	—	—
4 Whooping cough		..	...	...	...	2	1
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6 Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
7 Encephalitis lethargica		..	...	...	...	1	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever		...	...	...	...	1	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system		...	...	...	...	5	2
10 Other tuberculous diseases	...		...	...	...	1	1
11 Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis		...	...	...	...	—	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...		...	...	...	11	10
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...		...	..	...	3	2
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	9	12
17 Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	...		...	...	...	8	8
19 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...		...	...	...	3	2
21 Other respiratory diseases	...		...	...	...	1	—
22 Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	..	...	—	—
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)		...	...	...	..	1	—
24 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
25 Cirrhosis of liver		...	...	...	..	—	—
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.		...	...	...	...	—	—
27 Other digestive diseases	...		...	...	...	1	—
28 Acute and chronic nephritis		...	...	...	...	2	2
29 Puerperal sepsis	...		...	...	..	—	1
30 Other puerperal causes	...		...	...	...	—	1
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...		...	...	...	3	2
32 Senility	...	...	...	...	...	2	9
33 Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
34 Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
35 Other defined diseases	...		..	...	...	2	5
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown			...	...	...	2	4
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)							
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Polioomyelitis	...	...	...	...	..	—	—
Polioencephalitis		...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year							
					Total	5	4
					Legitimate	5	4
					Illegitimate	—	—
LIVE BIRTHS							
					Total	161	144
					Legitimate	156	139
					Illegitimate	5	5
STILLBIRTHS							
					Total	3	3
					Legitimate	3	3
					Illegitimate	—	—
POPULATION						15,270	

Bradfield Rural District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	53,008
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937	14,930			
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to				
Rate Books	...	...	...	4,834
Rateable value (end of 1937)	...	...	...	£101,389
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£420

The district is almost entirely agricultural and residential in character,

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	167	82	85	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11·9
	Illegitimate	10	4	6	
Stillbirths	...	5	4	1	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births 27
Deaths	...	156	70	86	{ Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10·4

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ...	Nil	—
Other puerperal causes	Nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	23
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			24
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	21
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil

Average rates for the ten years, 1927—1936 :—

Birth-rate 13·5	Death-rate 11·8	Infant Mortality 46
-----------------	-----------------	---------------------

General Provision of Health Services for the District.

No changes have been made in any of the following services :—

Laboratory Facilities. Hospitals. Ambulance Facilities.
Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Changes in Home Nursing consisted of extension of the midwifery maternity and general nursing services provided by Englefield Nursing Association to include that portion of the parish of Tilehurst which lies within the district, together with extension of the midwifery and maternity services provided by Sulhamstead Nursing Association so as to include the parish of Aldermaston.

Excepting for the latter parish, in which no organised general nursing is carried out, the whole of the district is now provided with complete nursing services by associations affiliated to the Berkshire County Nursing Association.

For ambulance facilities for non-infectious cases the district is dependant upon Red Cross ambulances stationed in Reading and Newbury, together with the ambulances of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading. The maximum distance from one or other of these centres is about 10 miles.

Infectious cases are removed in the ambulances of Abingdon Joint Isolation Hospital. This hospital is about 10 miles distant from the nearest point and about 23 miles from the farthest point of the district.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.—The public health staff consists of a sanitary inspector, an assistant sanitary inspector, and a clerk, all of whom give their whole time to the Council's service.

The sanitary inspector, Mr. T. Harold Windle, is also inspector of new buildings and manager of the Council's houses. For the latter post he has one whole-time assistant, partly engaged in collection of rents, and partly in general duties.

Mr. Windle holds the sanitary inspectors' certificate and the meat inspectors' certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. The assistant sanitary inspector is at present uncertificated.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER.—No serious shortage of water was experienced during the year. Excepting for extensions of the mains of Reading Corporation in the parishes of Pangbourne, Purley, Theale, Tidmarsh and Tilehurst, and of the mains of the Mid-Wessex Water Company in the parishes of Bucklebury, Stratfield Mortimer and Yattendon, no changes in main water supplies were made.

All main supplies in the district are derived from the works of either Reading Corporation, Newbury Corporation, the S. Oxfordshire Water Company, or the Mid-Wessex Water Company.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Improvements to the sewage disposal works for the village of Yattendon were carried out at a cost of £434; and the provision of a sewerage system (referred to in the report for 1936) for the village of Stratfield Mortimer was in progress during the year. Otherwise no changes in systems of sewerage and sewage disposal were made.

A Local Inquiry into an application for consent to borrow £9,400 for works of sewerage and sewage disposal for the contributory place of Theale was held in February, by direction of the Minister of Health. Sanction was eventually granted but the work had not been commenced by the end of the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—No changes were made in the system of collection and disposal of refuse, which continued to work satisfactorily.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT:—
Mr. Windle, the Sanitary Inspector, has supplied the following summary of the year's work:—

No. of Different premises visited	...	...	1450
„ Inspections made ...	...	...	3200
„ Complaints received	...	...	28

No. of Defects or Nuisances discovered	...	89
„ Notices served	{ Informal ... Statutory ...	80 —
„ Prosecutions	... ..	—

NO. OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED—

As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, &c.	...	2
„ Drains or Cesspools	... ..	5
„ Pigs or other animals	... ..	3
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughter-houses	...	77
„ Deficient or impure water	... ..	14
„ Unclean houses	... ..	4
„ Overcrowded houses	... ..	1
„ Polluted ditches, streams, &c.	... ..	2
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits	...	1
„ Other defects or nuisances	... ..	3
No. of Premises disinfected	... ..	28
„ Water samples taken for analysis	...	14
„ Wells closed	... ..	—
„ Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	...	2
„ New wells sunk	... ..	19
„ Houses connected with water mains	...	83
„ Water certificates granted	... ..	80
„ Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food		2
„ Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	...	4
Canal Boats, No. of Inspections		—

Common Lodging-houses	{ No. on Register ... No. of Inspections ...	— —
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Milkshops	No. on Register	...	3
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„ „	...	162
Slaughter-houses	„ „	...	11
Milkshops	No. of Inspections	...	12
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„ „	...	213
Slaughter-houses	„ „	...	95
Piggeries	„ „	...	4

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

I. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.		Inspections made.	Number of written notices.	Prosecutions.
1. Factories	...	45	0	0
(Including factory laundries).				
2. Workshops	...	85	0	0
(Including workshop laundries).				
3. Workplaces	...	0	0	0
Total		130	0	0

II. DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found.	Remedied.	Number of Defects Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecutions.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of cleanliness	0	0	0	0
Want of ventilation	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0
Want of drainage of floors	...	1	1	0
Other nuisances	0	0	0	0
Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts:—				
	0	0	0	0
Totals	1	1	0	0

III. HOME WORK.

Nil.

IV. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register.				Number.
Bakehouses	...	...	...	16
Others	...	...	...	118
				—
				134

V. OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

SHOPS.—During the year, 64 shops were inspected under those provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, which relate to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences. In no instance was cause for action found.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No action was taken or needed.

SWIMMING BATHS OR POOLS.—The only swimming bath or pool in the district is a small concrete bath, with dressing accommodation, constructed in the parish of Frilsham on a site near the river Pang. This bath is privately owned but is open to the public. In normal seasons the water is derived from the Pang; in periods of drought water is pumped into the bath from a deep boring. A system of purification by chlorine and copper sulphate, designed by an expert, is in operation; and, in addition, the bath is emptied and cleansed fortnightly.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—Infestation by bugs is very rare in the district, but two cases were met with during the year. Both houses, which were not Council houses, were effectually dealt with by thorough spraying with a liquid insecticide, which was carried out at the cost of the owners by officers of the Local Authority.

To prevent re-infestation, a supply of insecticide was left with each tenant, with full instructions as to use, together with a copy of the Ministry of Health's "Memorandum on the bed bug and how to deal with it." Re-inspections of the premises were made from time to time.

No special methods for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses have been adopted, as inspections of the houses to be vacated have, as yet, shown no need for action.

SCHOOLS.—The elementary schools in the district were inspected during the year and any defects of sanitation were reported to the responsible authorities.

Main water was laid on to one school, which had previously been dependant upon wells, and in another school a septic tank and irrigation system were provided for sewage.

HOUSING.

New houses erected during the year totalled 102, of which 58 were dwellings of working-class type. Six of the latter were provided by the Local Authority. Under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, a grant of £100 was made towards the reconditioning of a house.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	288
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	410
--	-----

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	165
---	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	165
--	-----

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
---	-----

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	35
--	----

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	48
--	----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A.—*Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	1
---	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners	Nil
----------------------	-----

(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil
---	-----

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—* Nil

C.—*Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

D.—*Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—* Nil

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV. OVERCROWDING.—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 8

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 8

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 49½

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 2

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 9

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 54

(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

Apart from houses tabulated above, a pair of working-class cottages, upon which Demolition Orders had become operative, were rendered habitable and converted into one dwelling which could not be regarded as of working-class type. No objection to the Demolition Order had been made by the original owner; but upon his death the cottages, together with

other property, changed hands and the new owner put forward proposals for the reconditioning and conversion of the cottages. With the co-operation of the Local Authority, who waived their right to object to the appeal on the grounds that it had not been made within the statutory period, an appeal against the Demolition Order was lodged and was upheld.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—The district contains 162 registered cow-keepers and dairymen, of whom 92 are wholesale traders and producers, 61 are producers and retailers and 9 are retailers only.

No legal action with respect to the milk supply was found necessary during the year.

The following improvements to milking sheds and dairies were carried out as the result of informal representations by the Sanitary Inspector:—

No. of new cowsheds built	...	4
„ „ existing buildings converted into cowsheds of good type	...	4
„ „ cowsheds provided with new floors	...	3
„ „ „ „ „ additional lighting	...	6
„ „ „ „ „ ventilation	...	4
„ „ „ „ „ improved drainage	...	1
„ „ new dairies or cooling houses provided	...	2
„ „ dairies or cooling houses improved	...	1
„ „ water supplies provided or improved	...	1
„ „ yards concreted	...	5
„ „ minor improvements	...	3

At the end of the year licences to produce designated milk at 65 dairy farms were in force. At 16 farms the licences were for Tuberculin Tested milk and at the remaining 49 for Accredited milk. Four of the herds in the district are attested, under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme, as being free from reactors to tuberculin.

During the year the Local Authority granted licences to sell Tuberculin Tested milk to 7 retailers. Two of these were supplementary licences only. Supplementary licences to sell Pasteurised milk were granted to two retailers.

Three samples of Tuberculin Tested milk, from three different retailers, each supplied by a different producer, were submitted to examination on behalf of the Local Authority and were found to comply with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Twelve samples of milk retailed within the district were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. Negative results were given in 11 cases and positive results in the remaining case. The latter was reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, but investigations by the County Veterinary Surgeons failed to trace the source. The herd from which the milk was derived consisted of 4 cows only and none of these showed any signs of Tuberculosis, while further samples of milk gave negative results. The owner of the herd stated that no cows had been disposed of during the interval which had elapsed between the taking of the original sample and the veterinary examinations.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—No legal action with respect to meat or other foods was found to be necessary. In two slaughter-houses limewashing was carried out in consequence of informal notices.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and the number of carcasses or parts of carcasses condemned:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cows and Cattle other than Cows*	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Number inspected ...	107	53	428	461
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcasses condemned	3	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2·80	0·00	0·00	·22

* Separate records for cows and for other cattle have not been kept.

All condemned meat was voluntarily surrendered and was sent, under supervision, to the premises of a fat boiler.

Apart from meat, no diseased or unsound food was discovered during inspections of shops and other premises in which food is stored, sold or prepared for sale.

The 16 bakehouses in the district received 40 visits of inspection, and the only faults found were defects of the ceiling and floor of one bakehouse, which defects were remedied under informal notice.

**Prevalence of, and Control over,
Infectious and other Diseases.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	—	—	—
Diphtheria	3	1	—
Scarlet Fever	19	11	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	4	3	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	16	—	5 (all forms)
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—

One of the cases of Diphtheria was a visitor from America, who had evidently contracted the disease during the voyage, as he was taken ill on the day of landing. The other two were members of a family in a different part of the district. The origin of the first of these cases could not be proved, though the circumstances of a visit to a neighbouring town were consistent with infection having been acquired there. The second case was the mother of the first patient, whom she nursed at home during the illness and from whom no doubt infection was derived.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were made up of 5 at Bradfield College in February, 3 in the Blagrove Hospital, Calcot, within a period of 7 days in April and May, 7 in the parish of Ufton Nervet during the autumn and a single case in each of four other parishes.

The Bradfield College cases were removed to Reading Isolation Hospital by private arrangement.

The circumstances of the cases in the Blagrove Hospital suggested infection after admission. None of the patients was a resident of this district. Two of them were removed to Reading Isolation Hospital and the third to Newbury Isolation Hospital.

At Ufton Nervet the disease, which was of very mild type, was undoubtedly spread by cases which remained unrecognised until after some of their associates had become infected.

The 4 cases tabulated as Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) were shown by agglutination tests to be true Enteric. Two of the patients were members of a household in which several cases of the disease had occurred in the previous year. One of the former patients was eventually found to be a carrier, although previous tests for the carrier condition had given negative results.

The other two cases arose in different parts of the district. One of them was in the convalescent stage of the disease when notified and no clue to the source of infection could then be found; the other was a visitor from another county and was evidently incubating the disease on arrival, as symptoms appeared on the following day.

One of the cases of Dysentery was of unusual character, as, although the symptoms were typical of this disease, the only pathogenic organism isolated from the fæces was *B. Ærtrycke*, a bacillus which is usually associated with food poisoning. The patient was convalescent when notified and the origin of the disease could not be discovered. The remaining case was due to *B. Dysenteriae* (Sonne), and infection was assumed to have been contracted in London where this form of the disease was relatively prevalent at the time. The patient had visited London a few days before falling ill and had taken meals there. Both patients were adults and both recovered from the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age Periods.			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	—	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	—	10	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10	—	15	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
15	—	20	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
20	—	25	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
25	—	35	3	4	...	...	...	2	...	...
35	—	45	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
45	—	55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	—	65	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			5	5	2	3	2	3	0	1

The fatal case of non-respiratory Tuberculosis had not been notified. Death occurred in an institution outside the district.

OTHER CAUSES OF SICKNESS.—Influenza became epidemic in January, and Whooping Cough was prevalent in various parishes from the latter half of January to the end of June. Three deaths were attributed to the former disease and one to the latter.

Otherwise, no noteworthy causes of sickness, apart from notifiable disease, were evident.

No school was closed for infectious disease, but at the following schools the attendance was reduced to below 60 per cent. of the average by the diseases and during the periods stated:—

Beenham Council	Influenza	2 weeks in January
Bucklebury C. of E.	„	1 week „ „
Streatley C. of E.	„	2 weeks „ „

Ufton Nervet Paro-	Influenza	2 weeks in January
chial		
Theale	Whooping Cough	3 „ „ March
Mortimer St. John's		
Infants'	„ „	4 „ „ May & June
Ufton Nervet Paro-	Scarlet Fever	4 „ „ Sept. & Oct.
chial		

LABORATORY WORK, ETC.—The Local Authority bear the cost of Diphtheria Antitoxin used for treatment; and also the cost of bacteriological examinations necessary in the interest of the public health. Antitoxin is supplied from my office; and during the year 5 ampoules (8,000 units each) were issued. Bacteriological specimens examined at the cost of the Local Authority consisted of 18 swabs, which were examined for Diphtheria Bacilli and gave 2 positive and 16 negative results; 1 specimen of blood serum examined for the reactions of Typhoid, Paratyphoid, Malta and Undulant Fevers, with positive results with *B. Typhosus* H. and negative results with the remaining organisms; 6 specimens each of both urine and fæces examined for Typhoid and Dysentery organisms, with negative results; 2 specimens each of both urine and fæces examined for Typhoid bacilli, with negative results; 2 specimens of fæces examined for Typhoid and Dysentery organisms, with negative results; and 2 specimens of blood serum examined for agglutination reactions with Typhoid and Paratyphoid Bacilli, also with negative results. All these examinations were made in the laboratories of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, with the exception of two swabs and two specimens of blood serum which were examined in the laboratories of the Clinical Research Association.

Bacteriological examinations of milk are carried out at the National Institute of Research in Dairying of the University of Reading. Chemical analyses of water are made by the County Analyst, and bacteriological examinations of water by the bacteriologist of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BRADFELD RURAL DISTRICT, 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES	FEMALES
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	70	86
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	—	1
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	2	1
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	3
10	Other tuberculous diseases...	...	...	...	...	—	1
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	10	11
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	5
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	—	9
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	22	15
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	13	13
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	2
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	1	4
21	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—
22	Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	1	—
23	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	2
25	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
26	Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	6	—
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	1
29	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	1	3
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	—	1
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—
34	Other violence	...	...	...	...	2	5
35	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	8	9
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)							
	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year						1	3
						1	3
						—	—
LIVE BIRTHS						86	91
						82	85
						4	6
STILLBIRTHS						4	1
						3	1
						1	—
POPULATION						14,930	

Hungerford Rural District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	44,817
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937				8,610
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to				
Rate Books	...	...	...	2,487
Rateable value (end of 1937)		...	...	£41,378
Sum represented by a penny rate		...	...	£179

The district is principally agricultural and residential in character. Hungerford, the market town, has a population of nearly 3,000. Training quarters for racehorses are established on the downs, chiefly in the neighbourhood of Lambourn, a village with a population approaching 2,000.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	110	61	49	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13·2
	Illegitimate	4	3	1	
Stillbirths	...	4	2	2	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births 34
Deaths	...	131	76	55	} Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15·2

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ...	Nil	—
Other puerperal causes	Nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	70
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			73
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	19
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil

Average rates for the ten years, 1927—1936 :—

Birth-rate 16·5	Death-rate 11·5	Infant Mortality 47
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General Provision of Health Services for the District.

No changes took place during the year in any of the following services :—

Laboratory Facilities. Ambulance Facilities. Hospitals.
Clinics and Treatment Centres. Nursing in the Home.

Ambulance services for both non-infectious and infectious cases can be regarded as adequate for a rural district.

The whole of the district is provided with full nursing services by associations affiliated to the Berkshire County Nursing Association.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.—The staff consists of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. S. Raine, and one assistant—both whole-time officers. Mr. Raine also acts as inspector of new buildings and valuation officer. He holds the sanitary inspectors' certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The assistant, who is employed chiefly in clerical work, is uncertificated.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER.—No shortage of water was reported from any part of the district.

The only changes in public supplies were extensions from the mains of the Lambourn Valley supply to serve new houses in Lambourn, East Garston and Hungerford Newtown.

A project for the extension to the village of Inkpen of the main which supplies Kintbury has been approved by the Council; and the Corporation of Newbury, from whose water-works the Kintbury supply is derived, has been approached on the matter.

Chemical and bacteriological analyses of the Lambourn Valley water made during the year gave satisfactory results.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—No changes in systems of sewerage or sewage disposal were made during the year. Schemes for sewerage the villages of Lambourn and Kintbury are under the consideration of the Council.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The system of direct collection and disposal of domestic refuse, which was established in 1935, remained unchanged and continued to give satisfaction.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—Mr. Raine, the Sanitary Inspector, has supplied the following summary of the year's work:—

No. of Different premises visited	...	...	1082
„ Inspections made	...	...	1961
„ Complaints received	...	...	47
No. of Defects or Nuisances discovered		...	117
„ Notices served {	Informal	...	88
	Statutory	...	—
„ Prosecutions	...	...	—
NO. OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED—			
As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, &c.		...	23
„ Drains or Cesspools	...	...	36
„ Pigs or other animals	...	...	2
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughter-houses		...	5
„ Deficient or impure water	...	...	4
„ Unclean houses	...	...	7
„ Overcrowded houses	...	...	29
„ Polluted ditches, streams, &c.	...	...	4
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits		...	2
„ Other defects or nuisances	...	...	15
No. of Premises disinfected	...	...	9
„ Water samples taken for analysis		...	2
„ Wells closed	...	...	4
„ Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened		...	14

HUNGERFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

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No. of New wells sunk	...	...	...	1
„ Houses connected with water mains			...	40
„ Water certificates granted	...		...	6
„ Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food				1
„ Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s			...	2
Canal Boats, No. of Inspections	...		...	—
Common Lodging-houses	{ No. on Register		...	—
	{ No. of Inspections		...	—
Milkshops		No. on Register	...	4
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„	„	...	87
Slaughter-houses	„	„	...	8
Milkshops		No. of Inspections	...	9
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„	„	...	111
Slaughter-houses	„	„	...	103
Piggeries	„	„	...	12

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

I. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.		Inspections made.	Number of written notices.	Prosecutions.
1. Factories	...	15	0	0
(Including factory laundries).				
2. Workshops	...	67	0	0
(Including workshop laundries).				
3. Workplaces	...	4	0	0
Total		86	0	0

II. DEFECTS FOUND.

			Number of Defects	
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecutions.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	3	3	0	0
Want of ventilation	0	0	0	0
Want of drainage of floors	1	1	0	0
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	1	1	0	0
Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake-houses	0	0	0	0
Other Offences	0	0	0	0
Totals	5	5	0	0

III. HOME WORK.

Nil.

IV. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register.	Number.
Bakehouses	16
Others	42
Total at end of year	
	58

V. OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

SHOPS.—Action taken during the year under those provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, which relate to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences resulted in one shop being closed and converted into a private dwelling and new water closets being provided in three other cases.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No action was taken or needed.

SWIMMING BATHS OR POOLS.—The district contains no swimming baths or pools open to the public.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—Bugs are rare in the district, and, up to the present, no need of action has been found. Beyond inspection of the dwellings to be vacated, no special precautions have yet been taken with regard to tenants' belongings before removal to Council houses.

SCHOOLS.—The elementary schools, 13 in number, were inspected during the year and any defects of sanitation were reported to the responsible authorities.

Nine of the schools have public water supplies laid on. Public sewers are available for only 2 schools, and both of these are furnished with water-closets and drainage connected with the sewers. In the remaining cases pail-closets are used, and drainage is either into soakaways or else into septic tank and irrigation systems.

The playgrounds of 7 of the schools are satisfactory; in 5 schools parts of the surfaces of the playgrounds are more or less defective, and for the remaining school no proper playground is provided, but a neighbouring field, which is too muddy for use in wet weather and the use of which involves crossing a highway, is rented for the purpose.

Housing.

New houses erected during the year totalled 37, of which 35 are working-class dwellings. Thirty of the latter were provided by the Local Authority. Grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts were made towards the reconditioning of 5 houses and amounted to a total of £500.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	301
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	415

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	35
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	51
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	29

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	54
--	----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A.—*Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	24
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	10
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—* Nil

C.—*Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
Demolition Orders were made ... 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pur-
suance of Demolition Orders ... 10

D.—*Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—* Nil

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV. OVERCROWDING.—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end
of the year ... 39

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 39

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 223½

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported
during the year ... Nil

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved
during the year ... 29

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 180½

(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses
have again become overcrowded after the
Local Authority have taken steps for the
abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—No legal action with respect to milk was taken during the year. As the result of informal representations, the lighting and ventilation of 3 cowsheds were improved and new concrete floors were laid in 2 of these cowsheds,

At the end of the year 2 dairy farms were licensed for the production of tuberculin tested milk and 25 for the production of accredited milk, while one dairy herd was attested under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme as being free from reactors to tuberculin.

On behalf of the Council, 2 samples of undesignated milk were submitted to examination for bacterial content, and 4 samples to examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. The latter gave negative results to animal inoculation.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The following table gives particulars of meat inspections during the year:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle including Cows ²	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected ...	68	10	92	76
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	2·9	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—

² Separate records for cows and for cattle other than cows have not been kept.

The condemned meat was surrendered; the carcase was sent to a trout farm for boiling and the remainder was buried—supervision having been exercised in both cases.

Apart from meat, no article of food unfit for human consumption was discovered during inspections of shops and other premises in which food is sold, stored or prepared for sale.

No serious defects were met with on inspection of bakehouses.

The use of one bakehouse was discontinued during the year.

**Prevalence of, and Control over,
Infectious and other Diseases.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	1*	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia	4	1†	—
Erysipelas	3	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—

* Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

† Savernake Hospital.

The case of Diphtheria was a young child at East Garston, who was treated at home and recovered from the disease.

Both cases of Scarlet Fever arose in Hungerford, but the cases were separated by an interval of several months and there was no connection between them. One of the patients was a boy visitor from another county, whose illness began three days after arrival. At his parents' request, he was allowed to be taken to his home in a private car under suitable precautions against the spread of infection.

The other patient, an adult, was removed to Abingdon Joint Isolation Hospital.

The case of Puerperal Fever was removed to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, and the case of Puerperal Pyrexia remained at home. Both recovered completely.

TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age Periods.			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	—	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5	—	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	—	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	—	20	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
20	—	25	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
25	—	35	4	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
35	—	45	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
45	—	55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	—	65	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			7	0	1	0	1	0	1	0

The two fatal cases had been duly notified.

OTHER CAUSES OF SICKNESS.—Apart from Influenza, which was prevalent in January, and Measles, which became epidemic during the last three months of the year, no noteworthy causes of sickness, other than notifiable disease, were evident.

No school was closed for infectious disease, but at the following schools the attendance was reduced to below 60 per cent. of the average by the diseases and during the periods stated:—

Combe	Influenza	1 week in January
Kintbury St. Mary's	Chickenpox	1 „ „ „
East Garston	Measles	2 weeks in Dec.

LABORATORY WORK, ETC.—The Local Authority bear the cost of bacteriological examinations necessary in the interest of the public health and also the cost of Diphtheria Antitoxin used for treatment.

Specimens submitted to bacteriological examination during the year consisted of 9 swabs examined for Diphtheria bacilli with negative results in all cases.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied from my office, on request, to medical practitioners, and 2 ampoules (8,000 units each) were issued during the year.

Chemical analyses of water are made by the County Analyst, bacteriological examinations of human specimens by the Pathologist of the Royal Berks Hospital, and bacteriological examinations of milk by the staff of the National Institute for Research in Dairying of Reading University. The latter examinations include animal inoculation.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN HUNGERFORD RURAL DISTRICT, 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES	FEMALES
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	76	55
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2 Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4 Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6 Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
7 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
10 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
11 Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	9	10
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	14	12
17 Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
19 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
22 Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
24 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
29 Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
32 Senility	...	...	...	...	...	10	7
33 Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
34 Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	8	3
35 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)							
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year							
					Total	6	2
					Legitimate	6	2
					Illegitimate	—	—
LIVE BIRTHS							
					Total	64	50
					Legitimate	61	49
					Illegitimate	3	1
STILLBIRTHS							
					Total	2	2
					Legitimate	2	2
					Illegitimate	—	—
POPULATION	...	...	...	...	...	8,610	

Newbury Urban District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	2,612
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937	14,680			
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to				
Rate Books	...	...	...	4,162
Rateable value (end of 1937)	...	...	...	£103,304
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£403

The chief industries, in addition to the usual trades of a market town, are engineering and the manufacture of furniture,

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	177	93	84	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13·0
	{ Illegitimate	14	7	7	
Stillbirths	...	9	7	2	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births 45
Deaths	...	206	105	101	{ Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14·0

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	1	5·00

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	52
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			56
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	28
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	3
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	2

Average rates for the ten years, 1927—1936 :—

Birth-rate 14·1	Death-rate 13·4	Infant Mortality 49
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General Provision of Health Services for the District.

No changes have been made in any of the following services :—

Nursing in the Home. Laboratory Facilities. Hospitals.
Clinics and Treatment Centres. Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance facilities are adequate for the needs of the district.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.—In addition to the Medical Officer of Health, the staff consists of Mr. Hague, the Sanitary Inspector, and Nurses Poulton and Waller, who combine the duties of Health Visitor and School Nurse.

Nurse Poulton is also Child Protection Visitor for the purposes of Sections 206 to 220 of the Public Health Act, 1936. All three are whole-time officers.

Mr. Hague now has a whole-time clerk and general assistant, and the Health Visitors have the part-time services of another clerk.

Mr. Hague holds the certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as sanitary inspector and as inspector of meat and other foods.

Nurse Poulton holds the certificate for health visitors and school nurses of the Royal Sanitary Institute, also the Health Visitors' Certificate, issued under conditions approved by the Ministry of Health, and the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board.

Nurse Waller is a State registered nurse, is certified by the Central Midwives' Board and is approved as a Health Visitor by the Ministry of Health.

The appointment of a second Health Visitor dates from September 1st, 1937. The nurse first appointed left on October 30th and Nurse Waller commenced duty on December 29th.

Dr. G. A. Simmons, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Newbury, and Mr. C. B. Baxter, M.B., F.R.C.S., M.C.O.G., Reading, are the part-time medical officers of the Child Welfare Centre and Ante-Natal Clinic respectively; and Mr. Baxter, with Dr. G. O. Lambert, M.D., M.R.C.P., Reading, have been appointed as consultants in cases of Puerperal Fever, Puerperal Pyrexia and other complications of pregnancy and childbirth.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.—Nine midwives, none of whom is employed or subsidised by the Local Authority, reside and practise in the district.

The ante-natal clinic, established by the Local Authority in 1931, continued on the same lines as in previous years.

The attendances could be regarded as fairly satisfactory, as 112 expectant mothers, a number equal to 58 per cent. of the total births (live and still) notified during the year, made a total of 384 attendances.

From 1929, the services of either of two specialists have been available, at the cost of the Local Authority, to medical practitioners for consultation in cases of puerperal infection or other complications of pregnancy or childbirth. Three consultations under this scheme were held in 1937.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS OR CHILDREN.—No institution has been provided by the Local Authority, but a subsidy is paid to the Royal Berkshire Hospital for maternity cases admitted to that institution. Children in need of institutional treatment are frequently assisted by the committee of the Newbury Relief Fund, a voluntary body which does a great deal of valuable philanthropic work in the town.

HEALTH VISITING.—During the year the Health Visitors paid totals of 73 visits to 18 expectant mothers, 465 visits to 172 infants under 1 year of age and 668 visits to children between 1 and 5 years old.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION (under Part 1 of the Children Act, 1908, as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, and under Sections 206 to 220 of the Public Health Act, 1936).—Nurse Poulton has been appointed Child Protection Visitor. At the end of the year, 13 persons were registered as receiving a total of 16 children for reward. No legal action was found necessary.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.—During the year, infants under 1 year of age made 1,156 attendances and children between 1 and 5 years made 769 attendances. Of the former, 114, and of the latter, 61, attended for the first time. The number of infants who attended for the first time equalled 62 per cent. of the total live births notified during the year.

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.—An orthopædic clinic in connection with the Wingfield-Morris Orthopædic Hospital, Headington, Oxford, is held once a week at Greenham House; and patients needing hospital treatment are referred from the clinic to the parent institution, while urgent cases are admitted to the hospital directly. Both hospital and clinic are voluntary institutions. An annual grant is made to the hospital by the Local Authority.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACTS, 1907 and 1915.—The whole of the live births, 209 in number, registered in 1937 as having taken place in the district had been notified, but in 7 cases the notifications had not been posted within the prescribed 36 hours after birth. A total of 10 stillbirths also were notified.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER.—No shortage of water was experienced during the year.

Beyond extensions of the mains to meet new building development, no changes in the public supplies were made.

Bacteriological examinations of samples from each of the sources of the public supply were made during the year and gave satisfactory results, as in no instance were *B. Coli* found to be present in 100 c.c. of water.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Extensions of the sewers to newly developed areas were made; but no other important extensions, additions or alterations were carried out. Outlying areas of comparatively small extent are still unsewered, and the methods of disposal of sewage are mostly by

means of tanks and sub-irrigation systems in the gardens. No complaint of unsatisfactory conditions of disposal was made in any of these areas.

The question of sewerage the most important of them is under consideration.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The system of collection and disposal of domestic and trade refuse which was instituted in 1934 has been continued on similar lines and has proved satisfactory. Disposal is by means of controlled tipping and a single tip is mainly used, though a second tip was brought into use during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—Mr. Hague, the Sanitary Inspector, has supplied the following summary of the year's work:—

No. of Different premises visited	...	...	621
„ Inspections made	...	...	4487
„ Complaints received	...	...	18
„ Defects or Nuisances discovered		...	237
„ Notices served	{ Informal	...	43
	{ Statutory	...	1
„ Prosecutions	...	...	1

NO. OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED—

As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, &c.	...	58
„ Drains or Cesspools	...	44
„ Pigs or other animals	...	1
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughter-houses	...	1
„ Deficient or impure water	...	2
„ Unclean houses	...	10

NEWBURY URBAN DISTRICT.

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As to	Polluted ditches, streams, &c.	...	...	1
„	Insanitary accumulations or deposits	...	...	5
„	Other defects or nuisances	...	...	92
No. of Premises	disinfected	...	...	21
„	Water samples taken for analysis	...	...	11
„	Wells closed	...	...	2
„	Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	...	...	—
„	New wells sunk	...	...	—
„	Houses connected with water mains	...	...	7
„	Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food	...	...	1143
„	Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	—
Canal Boats,	No. of Inspections	...	...	—
Common Lodging-houses	{	No. on Register	...	—
		No. of Inspections	...	—
Milkshops	No. on Register		...	21
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„	„	...	5
Slaughter-houses	„	„	...	6*
Milkshops	No. of Inspections		...	151
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„	„	...	36
Slaughter-houses	„	„	...	1198
Piggeries	„	„	...	62

* Exclusive of the Local Authority's abattoir.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

I. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.		Inspections made.	Number of written notices.	Prosecutions.
1.	Factories ... (Including factory laundries).	150	0	0
2.	Workshops ... (Including workshop laundries).	240	0	0
3.	Workplaces ...	12	0	0
Total		402	0	0

II. DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found.	Remedied.	Number of Defects Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecu- tions.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	1	1	0	0
Want of ventilation	0	0	0	0
Want of drainage of floors	0	0	0	0
Other nuisances	0	0	0	0
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	1	1	0	0
Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake- houses	1	1	0	0
Other Offences	0	0	0	0
Totals	3	3	0	0

III. HOME WORK.

Nature of Work.	Lists received from employers	
	Lists.	Outworkers.
Wearing Apparel (Making, etc.)	1	1
Offences in connection with outworkers		Nil

IV. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register.	Number.
Bakehouses	20
Others	116
Total at end of year 136	

V. OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

SHOPS.—During the year, 197 shops were inspected under those provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, which relate to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences. The following defective conditions were found:—

Defects.	Number of premises affected.
Want of heating	9
Insufficient lighting	2
Want of adequate washing facilities	2
Defective W.C. accommodation	4
Insufficient W. C. accommodation	8

The following defects, including those discovered in previous years, were remedied in 1937 in consequence of informal notices:—

Defects.	Number of premises affected.
Want of heating	12
Insufficient lighting	2
Want of adequate washing facilities	4
Defective W.C. accommodation	5
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	7

A total of 75 re-visits were paid to shops during the course of the remedial works or for other purposes.

Certificates were granted to the occupiers of two shops exempting them from compliance with the provisions relating to W.C. accommodation and washing facilities on the grounds that the shops were too small for installation of these services on the premises and that suitable and sufficient accommodation was otherwise conveniently available.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—Several instances of excessive emission of black smoke from factory chimneys were noted, and appropriate action resulted in improvement in most cases.

The Sanitary Inspector suggests that, in view of the increase in the number of factory chimneys within the last few years, byelaws prescribing standards for the emission of smoke appear to be desirable.

SWIMMING BATHS OR POOLS.—The only swimming bath or pool open to the public is the swimming bath owned by the Local Authority. The improvements mentioned in last year's report were carried out during 1937. The water is now obtained from the public supply and the use of river water has been discontinued.

All the water used is now subjected to filtration, chlorination and aeration, and these processes have resulted in a marked improvement in the condition of the bath with a great reduction in the growth of algæ as compared with former experience.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—During the year, 10 Council houses were found to be infested with bugs, and in each case disinfestation by thorough spraying with a liquid insecticide was carried out. Satisfactory results were obtained, despite difficulties experienced owing to the method of construction of some of the houses. The tenants were instructed in the means of preventing re-infestation and the houses were kept under supervision. Where all the haunts of the bugs could be discovered and dealt with recurrence was exceptional. No other cases of infestation were found.

The Housing Committee have approved a recommendation that in any case where the Sanitary Inspector has reason to believe that bugs are present in the furniture of an applicant for a Council house it shall be a condition of approval of the tenancy that permission to spray the furniture before removal shall be given by the tenant.

Up to the present, the work of disinfestation has been carried out by officers of the Local Authority.

SCHOOLS.—The whole of the elementary schools and several of the private schools were inspected during the year. Only minor defects, which were remedied in all cases, were found.

All schools are connected with the main water supply and are provided with water closets and drainage connected with the sewers.

Housing.

A total of 157 houses, of which 129 are working-class dwellings, were erected during the year. Eighteen of the latter were built by the Local Authority.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	247
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	621
--	-----

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	..	...	26
--	-----	----	-----	----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	26
--	----

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 4 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | Nil |

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	Nil
--	-----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A.—*Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... | 11 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By owners | 32 |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners ... | Nil |

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—*

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 44 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By owners | 56 |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | Nil |

c. —Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	2
---	-----	-----	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	Nil
--	-----	-----	-----

d.—Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :— Nil

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV. OVERCROWDING.—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	2
--	-----	-----	-----	---

(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	2
---	-----	---

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	14
--	-----	----

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	6
--	-----	-----	-----	---

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	37
--	-----	-----	-----	----

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	261
---	-----	-----

(d). —Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overerowing	...	...	1
---	-----	-----	---

Recurrence of overcrowding in this case was due to the return home from lodgings of an adult member of the family. An offer of a Council house which would have accommodated the whole family was declined. Certain members are again sleeping away from home and the house has in consequence ceased to be overcrowded.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—The number of registered cowkeepers remains at 5, 3 of whom are in a comparatively small way of business whilst the remaining 2 carry on an extensive trade. Each cowkeeper is registered also as a wholesale and retail purveyor of milk.

One of the dairy farms is licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk and another one for the production of Accredited milk.

The registered retail purveyors now number 39.

A total of 151 inspections of dairies and milkshops were made during the year. Minor improvements to premises and equipment were carried out, while in one instance an informal notice to cleanse a dairy was effectual. No grounds for legal action with respect to milk were found, excepting for a case of adulteration to which reference is made under the heading "Adulteration &c." on page 115.

Licences to retail designated milk were granted by the Local Authority to 8 applicants. The licences were for Tuberculin Tested milk in 5 cases, Accredited milk in 2 cases and Pasteurised milk in one case. A licence to produce Pasteurised milk was also granted.

A total of 27 samples of milk were submitted, on behalf of the Local Authority, to examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. Three were samples of Pasteurised milk; the remainder were samples of undesignated milk retailed within the district. Two of the latter gave positive results, which were reported to the County Medical Officers of Health concerned. In one case two different dairy herds were involved—one in Berkshire and the other in Hampshire. Veterinary investigations showed the Berkshire herd to be free from any cow with suspicious signs of the disease, and subsequent samples gave negative results. One cow in the Hampshire herd showed signs of the disease and was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order. Post-mortem examination showed extensive Tuberculosis.

In the other case, in which one herd only was concerned, no suspicious cow could be found and subsequent samples gave negative results. Four cows from this herd had been sold between the date of original sampling and the date of veterinary examination, and it is probable that one or other of these had been responsible for the tuberculous infection of the milk.

Thirty-seven samples of milk, taken shortly after pasteurisation from the dépôt of the Milk Marketing Board, were examined on behalf of the Local Authority and the following results were given:—

Of a total of 37 samples examined for bacterial content, 24 complied with the standard laid down in the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, and 13 did not comply. In the case of 31 of the samples the Phosphatase test also was applied and gave results consistent with efficient pasteurisation in 25 cases and results suggestive of a temperature or a holding period not in conformity with the requirements of the Order in the remaining 6 cases.

The varying results gave rise to concern, but the position now appears to have improved as the more recent samples have given consistently good results.

The importance of the frequent taking of samples and the constant supervision of the pasteurising plant which are exercised by the Sanitary Inspector will be appreciated in view of the fact that the bulk of the milk is sold outside the district and that of the milk sold within the district a good proportion goes to the elementary schools, where it now replaces the unpasteurised milk formerly supplied to the children and found on two occasions to contain Tubercle Bacilli.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The slaughter-houses consist of 4 registered and 2 licensed premises, together with 4 slaughter-houses in the Local Authority's abattoir. The latter formerly contained 5 slaughter-houses, but during 1937 one of them was converted into a hanging-room for carcasses,

A total of 1,198 visits were paid to slaughter-houses during the year and the record total of 28,847 carcasses were inspected.

The following table, prescribed by the Ministry of Health, shows the different classes of animals inspected and the results of inspection:—

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	not	known			
Number inspected ...	1,068	402	4,179	6,816	16,382
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	2	6	7	22
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	29	33	—	6	75
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	2·71	8·70	0·14	0·19	0·59
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	56	3	—	49
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	75	—	—	799
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1·40	32·53	0·071	—	5·17

In order to preserve the continuity of the records, details of the articles condemned and the reasons for condemnation

are given as in former years and are as follows:—

TUBERCULOSIS

OXEN	Type.
59 carcasses and organs	Generalised.
76 sets of lungs	Localised.
13 livers	„
14 heads	„
338 lbs. of beef.	„
PIGS	
48 carcasses and organs	Generalised.
22 plucks	Localised.
679 heads	„
113 mesenteries	„
24 sets of lungs	„
11 livers	„
66 lbs. pork	„
CALVES	
3 carcasses and organs	Generalised.

OTHER DISEASES OR CONDITIONS.

	Diseases, etc.	
4 ox heads	Abscesses.	
8 sets ox lungs	„	
27 ox livers	„	
2 sheep's livers	„	
10 lbs. mutton	„	
46 lbs. beef	„	
1 pig and organs	„	(generalised)
1 calf and organs	Generalised Inflammation.	
21 pigs and organs	„	„
1 ox and organs	„	„
4 sheep and organs	„	„
7 sets ox lungs	Localised Inflammation.	
2 sets sheep's lungs	„	„
50 sets pigs' lungs	„	„
3 ox livers	„	„
3 pigs' livers	„	„

OTHER DISEASES OR CONDITIONS.

Diseases, etc.

12 pigs' plucks	Localised Inflammation.
233 lbs. pork	„ „
2 sets ox lungs	Congestion.
1 sheep and organs	Stuck at point of death.
1 calf and organs	„ „
7 ox heads	Actinomycosis.
13 ox livers	Cirrhosis.
12 pigs' livers	„
1 sheep's liver	„
2 ox livers	Fatty degeneration.
4 pigs' livers	„ „
10 pigs' livers	Infiltration.
1 ox and organs	Bruising and injuries.
2 hindquarters of beef	„ „
140 lbs. of beef	„ „
1 calf and organs	„ „
1 sheep and organs	„ „
1 sheep and organs	Worried.
3 calves and organs	Immature.

In addition to meat inspected at slaughter-houses, the following meat inspected in shops or stores was condemned on account of tainting or other signs of decomposition:—125 lbs. English beef; and imported meat consisting of 641 lbs, 654 lbs. and 88 lbs. beef, 8 lbs. sheep's liver and 21 lbs. lamb.

The whole of the condemned meat was voluntarily surrendered. Disposal was supervised in order to ensure that none was used for human consumption.

No legal action with respect to meat or slaughter-houses was taken during the year.

A total of 346 inspections were made of shops and other premises in which food, other than butchers' meat, is sold, stored or prepared for sale and no serious fault could be found. These visits included a number paid to the Milk Marketing Board's butter factory, which was found to be satisfactory on all occasions.

In addition, 185 inspections of the open market were made.

The ice-cream depôt mentioned in last year's report continued in use. The sole remaining factory in which any considerable quantity of ice-cream is made was found to be satisfactorily conducted whenever inspected.

The only fault of any consequence found in bakehouses was delay in carrying out the statutory limewashing in one instance, and this was remedied after informal notice.

ADULTERATION, ETC.—The following is a summary of the work done during the year under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927:—

	No. of samples taken for analysis.	No. of samples found adulterated.	No. of prosecutions.	No. of convictions.
Milk	35	5	1	0
Tea	2	0	0	0
Self-raising flour	2	0	0	0
Iodine paint	1	0	0	0
Mustard	1	0	0	0
Vinegar	1	0	0	0
Coffee	1	0	0	0
Lardeen	1	0	0	0
Essence of Coffee and Chicory	1	0	0	0
Tinned Cream	1	0	0	0
	46	5	1	0

The prosecution listed above was for adulteration of milk, shown on analysis to be deficient in both fat and non-fatty solids. The charges were found to be proved, but the case was dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act on payment of costs amounting to £9 19s. 6d.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—Samples taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and allied legislation are examined at the laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health, the Chief Chemist of which Institute has been appointed Public Analyst to the district. Examinations of samples of milk for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli are carried out at the National Institute for Research in Dairying of the University of Reading. Examinations for tubercle bacilli include animal inoculation.

**Prevalence of, and Control over,
Infectious and other Diseases.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	17	13	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	1	1	—
Puerperal Fever	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—
Pneumonia	9	—	12(all forms)
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1*	—

* Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital, Oxford.

The cases of Scarlet Fever presented no features of special interest.

The complete absence of Diphtheria, though noteworthy, cannot be ascribed to the prophylactic measures which were instituted in the previous year, as insufficient numbers of children have as yet been immunised for a marked effect upon the incidence of the disease to have been produced by this means.

Diphtheria immunisation was extended by the Local Authority in 1937 so as to include all children under 14 years attending the secondary schools in the town, and this extension was put into effect soon after the summer holidays.

During the year a total of 365 children, of whom 85 were between the ages of 1 and 5 years and the remaining 280 were between 5 and 14, received full courses of immunisation at the clinics; and, in addition, sufficient immunising material for 8 children was issued, on request, for use in private practice.

The comparatively small numbers are disappointing.

The case tabulated as Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) was proved by agglutination tests to be Enteric Fever. The patient was a schoolboy, who at school had been a close companion of a boy from another district. The latter, together with three other members of his family, had had the disease in the previous year, and he was naturally suspected of being a carrier of infection, although tests made before his discharge from hospital had given negative results. Further tests of both fæces and urine were carried out on four consecutive days and again negative results were obtained. Eventually another member of his household was found to be a carrier, although in this case also tests before leaving hospital had proved negative.

The vehicle of infection of the Newbury case was assumed to have been home-made ginger-beer brought to school by his friend and shared by the two boys, as the person subsequently found to be a carrier had taken part in the preparation of this beverage.

The cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia ended in complete recovery.

The case notified as Acute Poliomyelitis was removed to the Wingfield-Morris Orthopædic Hospital, and there eventually found not to be suffering from this disease. A deep-seated abscess of the thigh, due to Staphylococcal infection,

had closely simulated Acute Poliomyelitis. After drainage of the abscess the patient made a good recovery.

The following cases were admitted to the Newbury Isolation Hospital during the year:—

District.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.
Newbury Urban	0	13	3
Newbury Rural	1	6	1
	1	19	4

The cases of Measles were the first to be admitted to the hospital. All were young children with serious complications which required skilled nursing. The observation block was vacant at the time and the cases could be treated without risk of spread of infection. One of the children died, and the Medical Officer of the hospital is of the opinion that at least one other would have died if allowed to have remained at home.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES.				DEATHS.					
Age Periods.			Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.			
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1	—	5	...	...	2	...	1	...	
5	—	10	...	1	...	1	...	...	
10	—	15	1	...	...	1	...	...	
15	—	20	2	...	...	1	...	...	
20	—	25	3	1	...	...	...	...	
25	—	35	1	2	...	...	1	...	
35	—	45	2	1	...	...	2	...	
45	—	55	...	...	...	...	1	...	
55	—	65	2	...	...	1	...	...	
65 and upwards			...	...	...	...	...	...	
Totals			11	5	2	4	4	1	0

Two of the fatal cases had not been notified. In one of these cases death occurred in an institution outside the district.

OTHER CAUSES OF SICKNESS.—Apart from Influenza, which was prevalent in the early part of the year and was responsible for 6 deaths, and Measles, which broke out in September and caused 3 deaths, no noteworthy causes of sickness, other than notifiable disease, were evident.

No school was closed for infectious disease, but at the following schools the attendance was reduced by Measles to below 60 per cent. of the average during the periods stated:—

Speenhamland Junior, 3 weeks in November; St. John's Infants C.E., 5 weeks in September and October and St. Joseph's Junior R.C., 4 weeks in November and December.

LABORATORY WORK, ETC.—The Local Authority bear the cost of Diphtheria Antitoxin and also the cost of all bacteriological examinations necessary in the interests of the public health. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied from my office, and during the year 3 ampoules (8,000 units each) were issued.

Bacteriological specimens, including those sent from the Isolation Hospital, consisted of 37 swabs examined for Diphtheria Bacilli, with positive results in 1 case.

The majority of these specimens were examined in the laboratories of the Clinical Research Association; the remainder at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEWBURY URBAN DISTRICT, 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES	FEMALES
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	105	101
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	2	1
3	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	4	2
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	4	1
10	Other tuberculous diseases...	...	...	...	...	1	—
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	16	13
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	2
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	2	9
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	24	16
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	1	1
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	16	25
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	4
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	4	8
21	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
22	Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	2	—
23	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	2	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	1	—
26	Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	4	5
29	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—	1
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	4	3
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	1	3
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—
34	Other violence	...	...	...	...	7	—
35	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	6	6
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)						—	—
	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year						6	4
						6	4
						—	—
LIVE BIRTHS						100	91
						93	84
						7	7
STILLBIRTHS						7	2
						6	2
						1	—
POPULATION						14,680	

Newbury Rural District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	41,660
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937	11,720			
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to				
Rate Books	...	...	...	3,539
Rateable value (end of 1937)	...	...	...	£69,977
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£294

The district is mainly agricultural and residential in character, but there are mills near Thatcham at which paper, flooring and roofing material, cardboard boxes and other containers are manufactured, and at which about 1,000 hands are normally employed.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	136	70	66	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11·8
	Illegitimate	2	1	1	
Stillbirths	...	7	2	5	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births 48
Deaths	...	131	62	69	{ Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11·2

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	1	6·90

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	65
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			68
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	20
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil

Average rates for the ten years, 1927—1936 :—

Birth-rate 13·6	Death-rate 12·5	Infant Mortality 40
-----------------	-----------------	---------------------

General Provision of Health Services for the District.

No changes were made during the year in any of the following services :—

Nursing in the Home. Laboratory Facilities. Hospitals.
Clinics and Treatment Centres. Ambulance Facilities.

The needs of the district are adequately met by ambulances stationed in the town of Newbury. The farthest points from the ambulance stations are little more than 10 miles. Full home nursing services are provided for the whole of the district by associations affiliated with the County Nursing Association.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.—The staff consists of a sanitary inspector and a clerk, both whole-time officers. The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Hampshire, is also inspector of new buildings and architect to the Local Authority's housing schemes. He holds the sanitary inspectors' certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and is also qualified as a surveyor.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER.—No shortage of water was experienced during the year. No new public supplies were provided nor were important extensions of existing supplies made.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—No changes in sewerage or sewage disposal systems were made. Schemes for the extension of sewers and the provision of a new system of sewage disposal in the parish of Thatcham and for sewerage of the village of Cold Ash are under the consideration of the Local Authority.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The system of collection and disposal of domestic refuse remained unchanged and continued to work satisfactorily.

The total cost in 1937 was £783, which is equivalent to a rate of about 2.7 pence in the pound.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT:—The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Hampshire, has supplied the following summary of the work done during the year:—

No. of Different premises visited	...	...	429
„ Inspections made	...	...	1102
„ Complaints received	...	...	30

No of Defects or Nuisances discovered	...	50
„ Notices served {	Informal ...	32
	Statutory ...	2
„ Prosecutions	... ..	—
No. OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED—		
As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, &c.	...	2
„ Drains or Cesspools	... ..	8
„ Pigs or other animals	... ..	1
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughter-houses	...	7
„ Deficient or impure water	... ..	2
„ Unclean houses	... ..	1
„ Polluted ditches, streams, &c.	... ..	3
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits	...	4
„ Other defects or nuisances	... ..	6
No. of Premises disinfected	... ..	21
„ Water samples taken for analysis	...	3
„ Wells closed	... ..	—
„ Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	...	2
„ New wells sunk	... ..	11
„ Houses connected with water mains	...	46
„ Water certificates granted	... ..	28
„ Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food		—
„ Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	...	17

Canal Boats, No. of Inspections	...	...	—
Common Lodging-houses	{ No. on Register		...
	{ No. of Inspections		...
Milkshops	No. on Register	...	2
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„	„	118
Slaughter-houses	„	„	7
Milkshops	No. of Inspections	...	20
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„	„	220
Slaughter-houses	„	„	92
Piggeries	„	„	4

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

I. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Inspections made.	Number of written notices.	Prosecutions.
1. Factories ... (Including factory laundries).	1	0	0
2. Workshops ... (Including workshop laundries).	98	0	0
3. Workplaces ...	0	0	0
Total	99	0	0

II. DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found.	Remedied.	Number of Defects Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecu- tions.
Nuisances under the Public				
Health Acts :—				
Sanitary accommodation :—				
not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0
Other nuisances	0	0	0	0
Offences under Factory and				
Workshop Acts :—				
Breach of special sanitary				
requirements for bake-				
houses	8	8	0	0
Other Offences	0	0	0	0
Totals	8	8	0	0

III. HOME WORK.

Nature of Work.		Lists received from employers	
		Lists.	Outworkers.
Wearing Apparel	...	1	1
(Making, etc.)			
Offences in connection with outworkers			Nil

IV. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register.			Number.
Bakehouses	...	...	13
Others	...	...	53
			—
			66

V. OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

SHOPS.—No action was found necessary under those provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, which relate to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—During the year a new type of water tube boiler was installed at the Colthrop Board and Paper Mills to replace five boilers previously in use, and there has since been a great improvement in the nature of the smoke emitted from the chimneys. It is understood that the Company are considering the installation of additional boilers of the same type.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—The district contains one swimming bath and one swimming pool open to the public. The former, which is privately owned, is 70 feet by 40 feet in area with a depth ranging from 4 to 7 feet. Water is derived from the Newbury Urban District mains, and is re-used to some extent, the effluent from the bath being strained, filtered, chlorinated and aerated before being returned to the bath. Inspections made on several occasions during the bathing season showed the purification plant to be working satisfactorily. The latter is in the river Kennet, which at this spot has been widened to form a pool. The flow of the river is unrestricted.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—No cases of infestation with bugs were discovered and no action was taken. Owing to the rarity of infestation in the district, no routine methods for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses are employed.

SCHOOLS.—No action was found to be necessary as the result of inspection of the elementary schools in the district. The sanitary defects discovered were of minor character.

Housing.

A total of 58 houses, of which 55 are working-class dwellings, were erected during the year. None of the latter was provided by the Local Authority.

Grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts were made during the year towards the reconditioning of 2 houses and amounted to a total of £150.

Grants totalling £300 were promised towards the reconditioning of 4 additional houses, and £150 was paid in respect of 2 of them which had been completed before the end of the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	87
---	-----	-----	-----	----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	180
--	-----

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	30
--	-----	-----	-----	----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	30
--	----

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil
--	-----	-----	-----	-----

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	24
---	-----	-----	-----	----

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	19
---	-----	-----	-----	----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

A.—*Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:		
(a) By owners	... ..	2
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	Nil

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	14
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	 14
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—*Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

Nil

D.—*Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

Nil

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV. OVERCROWDING.—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	4
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	4
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	24 $\frac{1}{2}$

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	Nil
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	15
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...			93½
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	Nil

Apart from houses included in the above table, 6 working-class dwellings which had been represented for Demolition Orders were afterwards rendered fit for habitation by the owners and the Orders were not made.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—No legal action was found necessary during the year. As the result of informal measures, 2 buildings formerly used for other purposes were converted into cowsheds of satisfactory type and improvements to the floors of 2 other cowsheds were carried out.

At the close of the year licences to produce designated milk at 39 dairy farms were in force. In 6 cases the licences were for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk and in the remaining 33 the licences were for the production of Accredited milk.

Under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme one dairy herd was attested as free from reactors to tuberculin.

No samples of designated milk were submitted to bacteriological examination on behalf of the Local Authority, but 8 samples of undesignated milk retailed within the district were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and all gave negative results. These examinations, which included animal inoculation, were carried out at the National Institute for Research in Dairying of the University of Reading.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—No legal action with respect to meat or other foods was taken during the year.

The use of one slaughter-house was discontinued, leaving 6 licensed slaughter-houses and 1 knacker's yard.

Killing is carried out weekly in one slaughter-house and only occasionally in the remainder, as most of the meat consumed in the district is supplied from outside. Apart from occasional delay in carrying out the periodical limewashing, no breaches of the byelaws with respect to slaughter-houses were found.

Licences to slaughter were issued to 8 men.

The following table gives particulars of carcasses inspected and condemned:—

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle including Cows*	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	not	known		
Number inspected ...	6	2	5	38
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—

* No separate records for cows and for other cattle have been kept.

No articles of food unfit for human consumption were found during inspections of shops or other premises in which food is sold, stored or prepared for sale.

During the year one old bakehouse was replaced by a building of good design and fitted with a modern oven. The district now contains 7 bakehouses with modern ovens and 6 with ovens of the older type which are not conducive to cleanliness. A total of 76 inspections were made, and 8 instances of delay in carrying out the periodical limewashing were found and were remedied by informal action.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	15	5	—
Euteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—
Pneumonia	24	—	5 (all forms)
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1	—	1

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
1	1	0	1	0	0	0

The origin of the single case of Diphtheria could not be discovered. The patient was a child who lived in a caravan and attended a school in the town of Newbury where no case of the disease was notified during the year.

The cases of Scarlet Fever presented no features of special interest. Eight of them arose in Thatcham and the remainder in four different parishes. Although several of the primary cases in households were children in attendance at elementary schools, the circumstances were not suggestive of infection having been acquired at school.

Both cases of Puerperal Pyrexia ended in complete recovery.

In the case of Cerebro-spinal Fever the diagnosis was confirmed by a specialist and also by examination of the cerebro-spinal fluid. The patient was a lady in good circumstances and was treated at home with three trained nurses in attendance. Anti-meningococcal serum was administered, both intra-muscularly and intra-theccally, but there was little response to any form of treatment and death occurred in the fourth week of illness. The source of infection remained in doubt. The patient had visited a large city a few days before the onset of illness.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 — 5	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
5 — 10	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10 — 15	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 — 20	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 — 25	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
25 — 35	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 — 45	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 — 55	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 — 65	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	8	5	2	1	1	1	0	0

The two fatal cases of respiratory Tuberculosis had been duly notified.

OTHER CAUSES OF SICKNESS.—Influenza was prevalent in the early part of the year and 6 deaths were attributed to the disease. A few cases of Measles were reported in January, but no further cases arose until October when the disease became epidemic in Thatcham and Chieveley and continued to spread up to the end of the year. Whooping Cough broke out in several parishes during the first quarter of the year, but showed little tendency to spread. No death was attributed to either Measles or Whooping Cough.

No school was closed for infectious disease, but at the following schools the attendance was reduced to below 60 per cent. of the average by the diseases and during the periods stated:—

Midgham	Influenza	2 weeks in January
Brimpton C. of E.	„	1 week „ „
Thatcham C. of E.		
Mixed.	„	2 weeks „ „

Thatcham C. of E.		
Infants.	Influenza	1 week in January
Cold Ash C. of E.	Chickenpox	1 „ „ „
Enborne	Influenza & Measles	5 weeks in Jan. and Feb.
Leckhampstead.	Mumps	3 „ „ May & June.
Thatcham C. of E.		
Infants.	Measles	3 „ „ Nov. & Dec.
Thatcham C. of E.		
Mixed.	„	1 week in Dec.

LABORATORY WORK.—The Local Authority have undertaken to pay for all bacteriological examinations required in the interests of the public health, with a reservation that the cost of mass swabbing in a local hospital, to which patients come from all parts of the country, shall be borne by the hospital.

Bacteriological examinations at the cost of the Local Authority were made either at the Royal Berkshire Hospital or at the laboratories of the Clinical Research Association and consisted during the year of 23 swabs examined for Diphtheria Bacilli, with 1 positive and 22 negative results.

The Local Authority have also undertaken to bear the cost of Diphtheria Antitoxin, which is supplied from my office. During the year 1 ampoule (8,000 units) was issued.

Wallingford Urban District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	760
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937				3,017
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to				
Rate Books	...	...	...	845
Rateable value (end of 1937)		...	...	£19,972
Sum represented by a penny rate		...	...	£78

The usual trades of a market town are carried on; and, excepting for a foundry at which agricultural implements are manufactured, there is no manufacturing industry of importance from the point of view of the public health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	31	16	15	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10·9
	Illegitimate	2	1	1	
Stillbirths	...	2	2	0	Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births 57
Deaths	...	32	18	14	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10·6

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ...	Nil	—
Other puerperal causes	Nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	30
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			32
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	6
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil

Average rates for the ten years, 1927—1936:—

Birth-rate 12·0	Death-rate 13·6	Infant Mortality 26
-----------------	-----------------	---------------------

General Provision of Health Services for the District.

No changes were made during the year in any of the following services:—

Nursing in the Home. Laboratory Facilities. Hospitals.
Ambulance Facilities. Clinics and Treatment Centres,

The ambulance facilities provided are adequate to the needs of the town and neighbourhood.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.—The sanitary staff consists, in addition to the medical officer of health, of a sanitary inspector, a meat inspector, and a clerk, who also acts as general assistant.

Mr. C. J. Flooks, the Sanitary Inspector, is also Surveyor and gives his whole time to his public duties. He holds the sanitary inspector's certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Meat Inspector, Mr. T. C. M. Hunt, M.R.C.V.S., is a part-time officer, who was re-appointed to the post from June 1st, 1930.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER.—No shortage of water was experienced during the year.

Beyond a short extension of a 3 inch main to serve new Council houses, no changes in the public supply were made.

The scheme for the provision of a supplementary source of supply with additional pumps and reservoir, to which reference was made in the report for 1936, was submitted to the Ministry of Health with an application for consent to borrow £6,000 for the purpose. A Local Inquiry was held in February, 1938, and sanction was eventually refused on the grounds that the new boring would be too near to potential sources of pollution. A different source of supply is being sought.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—No changes were made during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. The system of weekly collection and disposal of dry refuse remained unchanged and continued to be satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—
Mr. Flooks, the Sanitary Inspector, has supplied the following summary of the work done during the year:—

No. of Different premises visited	...	...	283
„ Inspections made	...	...	438
„ Complaints received	...	...	44
„ Defects or Nuisances discovered		...	190
„ Notices served	{	Informal	168
		Statutory	—
„ Prosecutions	...	...	—

NO. OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED—

As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, &c.	...	74
„ Drains or Cesspools	...	5
„ Pigs or other animals	...	—
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughter-houses	...	—
„ Deficient or impure water	...	—
„ Unclean houses	...	13
„ Polluted ditches, streams, &c.	...	1
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits	...	—
„ Other defects or nuisances	...	84
No. of Premises disinfected	...	7
„ Water samples taken for analysis	...	—
„ Wells closed	...	—

No. of Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	...	—
„ New wells sunk	... ..	—
„ Houses connected with water mains	...	43
„ Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food		—
„ Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	...	—
Canal Boats, No. of Inspections	... ..	—
Common Lodging-houses	{ No. on Register	1
	{ No. of Inspections	5
Milkshops	No. on Register	6
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„ „	3
Slaughter-houses	„ „	4
Milkshops	No. of Inspections	17
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„ „	7
Slaughter-houses	„ „	10*
Piggeries	„ „	5

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

I. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Inspections made.	Number of written notices.	Prosecutions.
1. Factories ... (Including factory laundries).	34	1	0
2. Workshops ... (Including workshop laundries).	78	1	0
3. Workplaces ...	0	0	0
Total	112	2	0

* Exclusive of visits paid by the Meat Inspector.

II. DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found.	Remedied.	Number of Defects Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecu- tions.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of cleanliness	0	0	0	0
Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts:—				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake- houses	2	2	0	0
Other Offences	0	0	0	0
Totals	2	2	0	0

III. HOME WORK.—OUTWORKERS LISTS.

Nil.

IV. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register.	Number.
Bakehouses	6
Others	84
Total No. of Workshops on Register	90

V. OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

SHOPS.—No action under those provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, which relate to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences was found to be necessary.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No action was taken or needed.

SWIMMING BATHS OR POOLS.—The district contains no artificial swimming baths or pools. Two regular bathing places in the Thames are open to the public and are provided with dressing rooms, &c.: one is under the control of the Local Authority, the other is privately owned.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—One Council house and 3 other houses were found to be infested with bugs. All were dealt with by spraying with a liquid insecticide, and no signs of recurrence were found on subsequent re-inspections.

During the year a system of dealing with the belongings of tenants before removal to Council houses was instituted. When the presence of vermin is known or suspected, furniture is sprayed and bedding &c., are steam disinfected.

Spraying is done by officers of the Council, and steam disinfection is carried out at the Public Assistance Institution by arrangement.

SCHOOLS.—The three schools (two elementary and one secondary) in the town were inspected during the year. In one of the elementary schools need of re-decoration of a classroom and need of certain minor repairs were found and were reported to the responsible authorities. In the other elementary school resurfacing of part of a playground, which was referred to in the 1936 report as being necessary, was carried out with the exception of a small strip, and a new surface-water drain was laid and proved to be effectual.

Improvements carried out at the secondary school during the year consisted of the provision in the boys' department of new W.C's and urinal and a changing-room in which shower baths, with hot and cold water, are installed. The only unfavourable criticism that could be made was that the approach to the new changing room is very rough and needs paving.

Housing.

A total of 43 houses, of which 32 are working-class dwellings, were erected during the year. The whole of the working-class dwellings were Council houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS.**1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	169
--	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	565
--	-----

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
---	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
--	---

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
---	-----

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	158
--	-----

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	130
--	-----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

A.—*Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	2
---	-----	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:		
--	--	--

(a) By owners	...	2
---------------	-----	---

(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	Nil
---	-----	-----

B.— <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—</i>		Nil
---	--	-----

C.— <i>Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</i>		Nil
--	--	-----

D.— <i>Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</i>		Nil
--	--	-----

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV. OVERCROWDING.—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	9
--	-----	---

(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	9
---	-----	---

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	73
--	-----	----

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	1
--	-----	---

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	9
--	-----	---

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	60
---	-----	----

(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

In addition to the houses tabulated as having been rendered fit for habitation under statutory powers, one house which had been represented for a Demolition Order was rendered fit by the owner without the Order having been made.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—No legal action with regard to milk was found necessary.

The wholesale milk depôt, together with its pasteurising plant, continued to be operated satisfactorily. The licence to sell Pasteurised milk was renewed, as also was a supplementary licence to another firm to retail Tuberculin Tested milk.

No samples of milk were submitted on behalf of the Local Authority to bacteriological examinations.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—No legal action with respect to meat or other food was taken.

The following table gives particulars of the work of the Meat Inspector during the year:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle including Cows*	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	not	known		
Number inspected ...	348	76	910	465
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	2·01	—	—	·65
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	1·15	—	—	4·30

* No separate records for cows and for cattle other than cows had been kept.

No attempt had been made to dispose of any of the diseased meat and voluntary surrender was accepted in all cases. The larger portions were removed by fat and bone merchants and the smaller portions were buried. Supervision of disposal was exercised.

Inspections of slaughter-houses revealed no serious faults.

Other premises in which food is sold, stored, or prepared for sale were inspected from time to time and no food unfit for human consumption was found.

**Prevalence of, and Control over,
Infectious and other Diseases.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	4	4	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	1	1	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	1 (all forms)
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—

In none of the six cases included in the above table could any source of infection be found. In no instance could any connection, direct or indirect, with a preceding case of the particular disease be traced. All were of comparatively mild character.

The case tabulated as Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) was proved by bacteriological tests to be Paratyphoid Fever of the B. type. Infection must have been contracted in the town, as the patient, an adult female, had not been elsewhere for many months. No other case of this disease had been notified since 1923.

The following cases, totalling 56, were admitted during the year to the Wallingford and Crowmarsh Joint Isolation Hospital, which is situated in this district:—

District.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid.)	Observation Cases.
Wallingford Urban	1	4	0	1	1
Wallingford Rural	1	5	1	0	0
Bullington Rural (Oxfordshire)	5	32	0	1	0
Thame Urban (Oxfordshire)	0	3	0	0	0
Henley Rural (Oxfordshire)	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	7	45	1	2	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 — 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 — 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 — 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 — 20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 — 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 — 35	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 — 45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 — 55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 — 65	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

OTHER CAUSES OF SICKNESS.—No noteworthy causes of sickness, other than notifiable disease, were evident.

LABORATORY WORK, ETC.—The Local Authority bear the cost of Diphtheria Antitoxin used for prophylaxis or treatment, and also the cost of all bacteriological examinations necessary in the interests of the public health.

Apart from specimens sent from the Isolation Hospital, no bacteriological examinations were carried out at the public cost.

Antitoxin is supplied to medical practitioners from my office, but none was issued during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN
WALLINGFORD URBAN DISTRICT, 1937.

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CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES	FEMALES
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	18	14
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2 Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4 Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6 Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10 Other tuberculous diseases...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
11 Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
17 Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
19 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
22 Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
24 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
29 Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
32 Senility	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
33 Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
34 Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
35 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)							
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year							
				Total	...	1	—
				Legitimate	...	1	—
				Illegitimate	...	—	—
LIVE BIRTHS							
				Total	...	17	16
				Legitimate	...	16	15
				Illegitimate	...	1	1
STILLBIRTHS							
				Total	...	2	—
				Legitimate	...	2	—
				Illegitimate	...	—	—
POPULATION	...	...	...	...	...	3,017	



Wallingford Rural District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	21,772
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937	11,640			
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to				
Rate Books	...	...	...	3,349
Rateable value (end of 1937)	...	...	...	£64,109
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£225

The Parish of Didcot and the adjoining North Ward of the Parish of East Hagbourne became amalgamated into one parish during 1935. Together they form a town of which the population is close on 6,000, and the chief occupations of the inhabitants are employment by the Great Western Railway, the Army Ordnance Depôt and the clerical department of the Army Clothing Factory, though a number of other industries of varied character are established.

The County Mental Hospital is situated in the parish of Cholsey.

The remainder of the district is almost entirely agricultural and residential in character.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	204	96	108	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 18·4
	Illegitimate	10	7	3	
Stillbirths	...	2	2	0	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births 9
Deaths	...	102	53	49	{ Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 8·8

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ...	Nil	—
Other puerperal causes	Nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	75
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			78
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	6
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	2

Average rates for the ten years, 1927—1936 :—

Birth-rate 16·1	Death-rate 9·7	Infant Mortality 43
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General Provision of Health Services for the District.

No changes were made during the year in any of the following services :—

Laboratory Facilities. Hospitals. Clinics and Treatment Centres. Ambulance Facilities.

Ambulance facilities are adequate to the needs of the district.

Full home-nursing services are provided by local associations for all parts of the district. The nursing association for the parishes of Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham is affiliated to the Oxfordshire Nursing Federation; the remaining associations are affiliated to the Berkshire County Nursing Association. The only change made during the year was the inclusion of the parishes of Brightwell and Sotwell in the area covered by the Wallingford Nursing Association.

RAINFALL.—Mr. T. G. Faulkner, waterworks and sewerage manager, has kindly supplied the following particulars of the rainfall of the year, as gauged at the sewage disposal works, Didcot.

RAINFALL IN 1937.

Month	Rainfall in inches	Month	Rainfall in inches
January ...	3·91	July	·90
February ...	3·91	August	·59
March ...	3·53	September	1·74
April ...	2·50	October ...	2·84
May ...	2·60	November ...	1·14
June ...	1·73	December ...	1·75
Total ...	18·18	Total ...	8·96
Total for the year 27·14 inches.			

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.—In addition to the medical officer of health, the staff consists of a sanitary inspector and a clerk.

Mr. C. J. Gayfer, the Sanitary Inspector, is a whole-time officer whose only other duties are those of Inspector of New Buildings. He is certified by the Royal Sanitary Institute, both as sanitary inspector and as inspector of meat and other foods. The clerk also gives his whole time to the service of the local authority.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER.—No shortage in either public or private supplies occurred during the year.

No important changes in public supplies were made.

The provision of a supplementary source of supply for the parishes of Didcot and East and West Hagbourne is under the consideration of the Council, who, during the year, obtained a report from a geologist as to the most likely situations in which an ample and pure supply could be expected as the result of boring.

Quarterly samples of water from the Didcot and Cholsey supplies, the only public supplies in the district, were submitted to both chemical and bacteriological examinations. The results were entirely satisfactory, excepting for one sample from Didcot which showed 13 *B. Coli* in 100 c.c. of water. This sample had been taken by a workman, during the illness of the waterworks manager, and was not packed in ice for transmission to the laboratory. Accidental contamination during sampling, together with multiplication of bacteria during transmission, were probably the causes of the unfavourable result. Another sample, taken by the manager a day or two later, showed absence of *B. Coli* from 100 c.c. of water.

During the year, 31 additional premises were connected with the Didcot supply and 51 with the Cholsey supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—In February, 1937, a Local Inquiry into an application by the Council for consent to borrow the sum of £9,666 for the purpose of extension and improvement of the sewage disposal works at Didcot was held by direction of the Minister of Health. Consent was eventually granted and the work was put in hand during the year. Completion by the middle of 1938 is expected. The new works, which have been designed to allow for a 12½ per cent. increase in the dry weather flow, comprise new sedimentation tanks and

percolating filters, with the installation of automatically-controlled, electrically-driven pumping plant and the conversion of the existing sedimentation tanks into storm-water tanks.

No other important changes in systems of sewerage were made.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Beyond the engagement of an additional loader, in order to obtain maximum service from the refuse-collecting vehicle, no changes were made.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Gayfer, has supplied the following summary of the year's work:—

No. of Different premises visited	...	...	704
„ Inspections made	...	...	1076
„ Complaints received	...	...	47
„ Defects or Nuisances discovered		...	229
„ Notices served	{	Informal	151
		Statutory	6
„ Prosecutions	...	...	3

NO. OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED—

As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, &c.	...	14
„ Drains or Cesspools	...	2
„ Pigs or other animals	...	1
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughter-houses	...	—
„ Deficient or impure water	...	41
„ Unclean houses	...	6

As to Polluted ditches, streams, &c. ...	...	1
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits ...	...	—
„ Other defects or nuisances ...	...	219
No. of Premises disinfected ...	...	21
„ Water samples taken for analysis ...	...	26
„ Wells closed ...	...	16
„ Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened ...	...	—
„ New wells sunk ...	...	1
„ Houses connected with water mains ...	...	82
„ Water certificates granted ...	...	26
„ Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food		720
„ Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s ...	...	—
Canal Boats, No. of Inspections ...	...	—
Common Lodging-houses	No. on Register ...	—
	No. of Inspections ...	—
Milkshops	No. on Register ...	37
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„ „ ...	57
Slaughter-houses	„ „ ...	5
Milkshops	No. of Inspections ...	18
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„ „ ...	27
Slaughter-houses	„ „ ...	347
Piggeries	„ „ ...	9

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

I. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.		Inspections made.	Number of written notices.	Prosecutions.
1. Factories ... (Including factory laundries).		7	0	0
2. Workshops ... (Including workshop laundries).		25	0	0
3. Workplaces ...		0	0	0
	Total	32	0	0

II. DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found.	Remedied.	Number of Defects Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecu- tions.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Sanitary accommodation				
Insufficient	1	1	0	0
Other nuisances	0	0	0	0
Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts:—	0	0	0	0
Totals	1	1	0	0

III. HOME WORK.—OUTWORKERS LISTS.

Nature of Work.		Lists received from employers Lists.	Outworkers.
Wearing Apparel ... (Making, etc.)	...	2	3
Offences in connection with outworkers			Nil

IV. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register.				Number.
Bakehouses	...	...	...	9
Others	...	...	...	8
				17

V. OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

SHOPS.—Under those provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, which relate to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences, notice was served upon one shopkeeper requiring the provision of sufficient sanitary accommodation and washing facilities. This notice was complied with. In the case of another shop a certificate of exemption from the obligation to provide sufficient sanitary conveniences on the premises was granted on the grounds that such provision was impracticable and that sufficient sanitary conveniences were otherwise conveniently available.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No action was taken or needed.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—The district contains two swimming baths open to the public. Both are in connection with Thames-side hotels; both are fed from the river; and in each case one-third of the water is changed daily and the bath emptied and cleansed weekly. The conditions appear to be satisfactory.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—Three cases of infestation by bugs were discovered during the year. Two of the houses involved were a pair of semi-detached Council houses; the third was not a Council house.

In the case of one of the former, destruction of mattresses was necessary; and, as this house had probably become infested from the adjoining house, the mattresses were replaced at the cost of the Council. Spraying with a liquid insecticide was carried out in all three cases and was effectual. The tenants were instructed as to prevention of re-infestation.

Instructions have now been given for the belongings of all prospective tenants to be inspected before removal to Council houses and for appropriate action to be taken in cases of infestation.

SCHOOLS.—No serious sanitary defects were discovered during inspection of the schools in the district.

Housing.

A total of 65 houses, all of which are working-class dwellings, were erected during the year. Twenty-eight of the houses were provided by the Local Authority. Under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts a grant of £100 towards the cost of reconditioning a house was made by the Local Authority.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	476
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	621
--	-----

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	..	...	151
--	-----	----	-----	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	203
--	-----

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 4
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 151

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 154

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

- A.—*Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—* Nil

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—*

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 6
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
- (a) By owners ... 6
- (b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil

C.—*Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 1
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 5

D.—*Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—* Nil

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV. OVERCROWDING.—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...			2
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...			10
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	3
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	7
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...			48
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	Nil

In the case of 5 houses (not included in the table) which were represented for Demolition Orders, the houses were rendered habitable, on the owners' undertakings, without the Orders having been made.

Under Section 62 of the Housing Act, 1936, proceedings were taken against three landlords for failure to enter in rent books or similar documents a summary of those provisions of the Act which relate to overcrowding together with a statement of the number of persons permitted in each house. A conviction was recorded in each case and costs were imposed.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—No legal proceedings with respect to the milk supply were taken during the year.

Two licences to retail Tuberculin Tested milk were granted by the Local Authority, one being a supplementary licence only.

On behalf of the Local Authority, 7 samples of undesignated milk retailed within the district were submitted to examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. A positive result was given by one sample and this result was reported to the County Medical Officer.

Investigations by the County Veterinary Officers revealed the presence in the herd concerned of three cows affected with Tuberculosis, and arrangements for slaughter of these cows under the Tuberculosis Order were made. One of them died before slaughtering could be carried out, and the carcase was sent by the farmer to a knacker who afterwards reported it as being "rotten with Tuberculosis;" the other two cows were found on post-mortem examination to be affected with the disease, which, while "not advanced" within the meaning of the Tuberculosis Order, involved the udder in both cases. Subsequent group-samples of milk from the remainder of the herd gave negative results.

At the close of the year licences to produce designated milk at 4 dairy farms were in force. In all cases the licences were for the production of Accredited milk.

No samples of designated milk were examined on behalf of the Local Authority.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—No legal action with respect to meat or other foods was taken. The 5 slaughterhouses in the district were conducted in a satisfactory manner. Licences to slaughter were issued to 14 men during the year.

The following table, prescribed by the Ministry of Health, gives particulars of meat inspected and condemned:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	151	71	331	1,636	5,358
Number inspected ...	151	71	331	1,636	5,358
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	5	11	8	9	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	1	2	3	304
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	5·30	16·90	3·02	·73	5·88
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	1	11	1	0	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	12	1	0	141
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8·61	32·39	·60	0	2·74

Voluntary surrender of all condemned articles was accepted, as in no case had any attempt to sell the meat been made.

So as to prevent any portion being used for human consumption, condemned meat was treated with strong-smelling disinfectant before removal from the premises was permitted.

In order to preserve the continuity of the records, detailed particulars of the meat condemned are given as in former years and are as follows:—

PIGS.

137 pigs' heads	Tuberculosis.
85 „ plucks	„
53 „ mesenteries	„
66 „ sides	„
3 forequarters	„
3 short forequarters	„
1 loins and offals	„
1 collar and fats	„
6 carcasses and offals	„
2 pigs' plucks	Pneumonia.
220 „ lungs	„
1 „ offals	„
3 carcasses and offals	Septic Pneumonia.
1 pigs' lungs	Pleurisy.
2 carcasses and offals	„ and Peritonitis.
25 pigs' livers	Cirrhosis.
1 „ liver	Fatty degeneration.
7 „ livers	Cysts.
37 „ offals	Unsound.
5 „ carcasses and offals	„
1 „ carcase and offals	Septicæmia.
1 leg of pork	Abscesses.
1 hand and spring	„
1 hand	„

SHEEP.

5 carcasses and offals	Unsound.
4 „ „ „	Emaciation.
2 sheep's plucks	Pneumonia.
1 sheep's pluck	Cirrhosis and Verminous Pneumonia.

CATTLE.

(including cows).

1 bull's carcase and offals	Tuberculosis.
1 ox offals	„

CATTLE. (including cows) contd.

4 Ox lungs	Tuberculosis.
1 „ head	„
2 „ heads and tongues	„
1 heifer's lungs and heart	„
2 „ forequarters	„
3 „ offals	„
3 cows' carcasses and offals	„ with Emaciation.
8 „ carcasses and offals	Tuberculosis.
5 „ offals	„
2 „ forequarters	„
2 „ lungs	„
2 „ livers	„
4 „ mesenteries	„
3 „ plucks	„
3 „ heads	„
1 cow's heart	„
1 „ loins	„
1 calf's carcass and offals	„
1 „ pluck	„
1 Ox carcass and offals	Dropsy.
3 cows' carcasses and offals	„
1 Ox carcass and offals	Septicæmia.
2 heifers' carcasses and offals	„
1 cow's carcass and offals	Septic Metritis.
1 cow's „ „ „	Septic Mastitis.
4 cows' carcasses and offals	Johne's disease.
1 Ox liver	Cirrhosis.
Skirts, heart and fats	Unsound.
1 heifer's carcass and offals	Pyæmia.
1 „ forequarters, loins and offals	Actinomycosis.
2 cows' carcasses and offals	Emaciation.
1 cow's carcass and offals	Pyæmia.
1 calf's pluck	Pneumonia.
1 „ lungs	„
1 „ kidneys	Nephritis.
1 „ carcass	Immature.

CATTLE. (including cows) contd.

5 calves' carcasses and offals	Unsound.
2 „ „ „ „	Immature.
1 cow's udder	Abscesses.

Shops and other premises in which food, other than butchers' meat, is sold, stored or prepared for sale were inspected from time to time, but no article of food was found to be unfit for human consumption.

The 9 bakehouses in the district were clean whenever inspected.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	—	—	—
Diphtheria	2	1	—
Scarlet Fever	6	5	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	1	1*	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—	7 (all forms)
Erysipelas	3	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—

* Abingdon Joint Isolation Hospital.

One of the cases of Diphtheria was a young man who lived in Didcot and worked in Abingdon; the other was a schoolgirl who lived at Cholsey and attended the village school up to the day of illness. In neither instance could any association with previous cases of the disease be traced.

The case tabulated as Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) was shown by agglutination tests to be true Enteric. The patient was a schoolboy whose illness commenced on the eleventh day after returning home from a seaside holiday of a fortnight's duration. The circumstances suggested that the disease was contracted during the holiday.

TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age Periods.			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
1	—	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
5	—	10	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
10	—	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	—	20	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	—	25	2	2	...	...	...	3	...	...
25	—	35	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
35	—	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	—	55	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
55	—	65	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			6	3	1	1	2	6	1	1

The two fatal cases of non-respiratory Tuberculosis had not been notified.

OTHER CAUSES OF SICKNESS.—Influenza was fairly prevalent in the early part of the year, but only one death was attributed to this disease; Whooping Cough broke out at Didcot in January and continued to the end of May; a few cases of Measles occurred at East Hagbourne in the first quarter of the year and an extensive epidemic of Mumps at Cholsey in December. Otherwise, no noteworthy causes of sickness, apart from notifiable disease, were evident.

No school was closed for infectious disease, but at the following schools the attendance was reduced to below 60 per

cent. of the average by the disease and during the periods stated:—

West Hagbourne Jnr.	Chickenpox.	2 weeks in July.
Cholsey Council.	Mumps.	2 ,, ,, December.

LABORATORY WORK, ETC.—The Local Authority bear the cost of Antitoxin used for treatment of Diphtheria, and also the cost of all bacteriological examinations necessary in the interests of the public health.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied to medical practitioners from my office; and, during the year, 24 ampoules (8,000 units each) were issued.

Specimens submitted to bacteriological examination during the year consisted of 38 swabs examined for Diphtheria bacilli with 1 positive and 37 negative results, and 1 Eye swab examined for Gonococci with negative results.

Chemical analyses of water are made either by the County Analyst or else in the laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health. Bacteriological examinations of water and of pathological specimens are carried out in the laboratories of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Bacteriological examinations of milk are made at the National Institute for Research in Dairying of the University of Reading, and in the case of examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli animal inoculation is included.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN
WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT, 1937.

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CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES	FEMALES
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	53	49
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2 Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4 Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6 Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
7 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
10 Other tuberculous diseases...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
11 Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	8
17 Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	7	2
19 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
22 Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
24 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
29 Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
32 Senility	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
33 Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
34 Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
35 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)							
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Polioomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year							
				Total	...	7	9
				Legitimate	...	7	9
				Illegitimate	...	—	—
LIVE BIRTHS							
				Total	...	103	111
				Legitimate	...	96	108
				Illegitimate	...	7	3
STILLBIRTHS							
				Total	...	2	—
				Legitimate	...	2	—
				Illegitimate	...	—	—
POPULATION						11,640	

Wantage Urban District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	2,797
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937				4,148
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to				
Rate Books	...	...	...	1,045
Rateable value (end of 1937)		...	...	£22,410
Sum represented by a penny rate		...	...	£88

Wantage is a market town. An iron and brass foundry is the only manufacturing industry of importance.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	47	25	22	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12·5
	Illegitimate	5	4	1	
Stillbirths	...	2	2	0	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births 37
Deaths	...	61	21	40	
					} Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14·7

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ...	Nil	—
Other puerperal causes	Nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	38
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			Nil
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			400

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	8
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

Average rates for the ten years, 1927—1936 :—

Birth-rate 12·1	Death-rate 12·3	Infant Mortality 59
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General Provision of Health Services for the District.

No changes were made in any of the following services :—

Nursing in the Home. Laboratory Facilities. Hospitals.
Clinics and Treatment Centres. Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance facilities are adequate to the needs of the town.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.—The staff consists of a medical officer of health and a sanitary inspector. Mr. H. Vivian James, who has been Sanitary Inspector from April, 1936, holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination Board. He is Surveyor also and devotes his whole time to his official duties.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER.—Beyond extension of the mains by the laying of a 3 inch branch to serve a new housing estate in Springfield Road, no changes in the public supply were made during the year.

No shortage of water was experienced.

Water from the public supply was submitted to chemical analysis on one occasion and to bacteriological examination on three occasions.

The County Analyst's report upon the chemical examination was as follows:—

The sample contained per 100,000 parts.—

Free and Saline Ammonia	...	none	„
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.006	„
Nitrogen (from nitrates)	...	0.50	„
„ („ nitrites)	...	none	„
Oxygen absorbed from perman- ganate in 4 hours at 27°C.	...	none	„
Hardness, total, equivalent to	...	28.0	„ CaCO ₃
„ temporary „ „	...	20.0	„ „
„ permanent „ „	...	8.0	„ „
Chlorine (from chlorides)	...	1.2	„
Total dissolved solids	...	35.2	„
which lost on ignition	...	—	„
Odour on warming	...	normal	
Appearance, etc.		clear and	colourless
Lead and Copper	...	none	
Zinc	...	„	

The results of analysis show the water to be free from pollution or other contamination and well suited for drinking and for other domestic purposes.

The following are the bacteriologist's reports:—

Agar Count at 22°C	= 25 colonies per c.c.
Agar Count at 37°C	= Less than 5 colonies per c.c.
Coli-aerogenes Count	= No coli-aerogenes organisms in 200 c.c. of water.

This is an ideal water from the bacteriological point of view and is suitable for general domestic use.

Agar Count at 22°C	= Less than 30 colonies per c.c.
Agar Count at 37°C	= Less than 30 colonies per c.c.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Count	= 11 coli-aerogenes organisms in 100 c.c. of water.

This is not an ideal water from a bacteriological point of view in that it shows the presence of coli-aerogenes organisms.

Agar Count at 22°C	= Less than 30 colonies per c.c.
Agar Count at 37°C	= Less than 30 colonies per c.c.
Coli-aerogenes Count	= No coli-aerogenes organisms in 100 c.c. of water.

This is an ideal water from the bacteriological point of view and is suitable for general domestic purposes.

The unfavourable report was received in the middle of December, and the third bacterial sample was taken four days later. Investigations suggested that temporary pollution had been caused by the entrance of surface water from cultivated land into the "gravitation" source of supply which is derived from springs in the chalk. Steps were taken to avert this source of pollution; but, in view of the possibility of recurrence during periods of exceptionally heavy rainfall, a firm of civil

engineers was consulted early in 1938 as to the practicability of doing away with this source of supply and relying upon the borings only, or, as an alternative, of installing a system of chlorination.

The matter is under the consideration of the Local Authority.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Beyond short extensions of sewers to meet new building development and some improvements carried out at the sewage disposal works, no changes in systems of drainage and sewerage were made.

During the year an application was made to the Ministry of Health for consent to borrow the sum of £21,170 for the purpose of extension and improvement of the system of sewerage and the provision of new sewage disposal works, and a Local Inquiry into this application was held in June. At the Inquiry an objection was made on behalf of Wantage Rural District Council, in whose district the proposed new disposal works would be situated, on the grounds that the works would be a nuisance to a neighbouring village and also with the view to that village being included in a joint system of sewerage discharging to disposal works on a different site.

The objection was sustained by the Ministry and the Council were asked to submit an amended scheme with the disposal works so sited as to enable the sewage of the village concerned to be treated at the works.

Considerable delay has been caused by the necessity to amend the original scheme, but a new site for the works has been provisionally fixed, and agreement upon all debatable points, with the consequent submission of the amended scheme for the Ministry's approval, is expected shortly.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—No changes were made in the system of collection of refuse, which continued to be satisfactory. Disposal by means of controlled tipping is carried out as efficiently as the limited amount of available covering material will permit.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—Mr. James, the Sanitary Inspector, has supplied the following summary of the year's work:—

No. of Different premises visited	...	...	205
„ Inspections made	...	...	560
„ Complaints received	...	...	51
„ Defects or Nuisances discovered		...	119
„ Notices served	{ Informal	...	37
	{ Statutory	...	14
„ Prosecutions	...	...	—

NO. OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED—

As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, &c.	...	31
„ Drains or Cesspools	...	21
„ Pigs or other animals	...	9
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughter-houses	...	10
„ Deficient or impure water	...	5
„ Unclean houses	...	4
„ Polluted ditches, streams, &c.	...	5
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits	...	7
„ Other defects or nuisances	...	21
No. of Premises disinfected	...	9
„ Water samples taken for analysis	...	6
„ Wells closed	...	2

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT.

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No. of Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	...	1	
„ New wells sunk		—	
„ Houses connected with water mains	...	18*	
„ Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food		35	
„ Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	...	—	
Canal Boats, No. of Inspections	... ..	—	
Common Lodging-houses	{ No. on Register	...	—
	{ No. of Inspections	...	—
Milkshops	No. on Register	...	2
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„ „	...	11
Slaughter-houses	„ „	...	5
Milkshops	No. of Inspections	...	10
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„ „	...	30
Slaughter-houses	„ „	...	304
Piggeries	„ „	...	15

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

I. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Inspections made.	Number of written notices.	Prosecutions.
1. Factories ... (Including factory laundries).	49	4	0
2. Workshops ... (Including workshop laundries).	29	1	0
3. Workplaces ...	0	0	0
Total	78	5	0

* Exclusive of the Council's new housing scheme.

II. DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found.	Remedied.	Number of Defects Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecu- tions.
Nuisances under the Public				
Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	1	1	0	0
Want of ventilation	0	0	0	0
Sanitary accommodation				
unsuitable or defective	0	0	0	0
Other nuisances	0	0	0	0
Offences under Factory and				
Workshop Acts :—				
Breach of special sanitary				
requirements for bake-				
houses	4	3	0	0
Other Offences	0	0	0	0
Totals	5	4	0	0

III. HOME WORK.—OUTWORKERS LISTS.

Nil.

IV. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register.	Number.
Bakehouses	3
Others	18
	—
	21

V. OTHER MATTERS.

Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under Public Health Acts :—

Notified by H.M. Inspector	1
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	1

SHOPS.—All shops in the town were visited and the register was brought up to date. No action under those provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, which relate to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences was taken or needed.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No action was necessary.

SWIMMING BATHS OR POOLS.—The only swimming bath or pool open to the public is the Local Authority's swimming bath, of which brief descriptions were given in the annual reports for 1935 and 1936.

The methods of ensuring the purity of the water, which were described in the 1936 report, were continued during the 1937 season. A sample of the water taken at the height of the bathing season was found on bacteriological examination to be sterile.

Improvements in the sanitary accommodation for bathers were effected during the year and further improvements are being carried out in readiness for the 1938 season.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—A pair of semi-detached Council houses were found during the year to be infested with bugs. The bugs were thought to have been introduced in two second-hand straw palliasses purchased by one of the tenants, whose house became badly infested, and to have been conveyed personally into the adjoining house, which was only slightly affected. In the worse infested house the wooden architraves, skirting and picture rails were removed before the rooms were thoroughly sprayed with an insecticide. The palliasses had previously been burnt by the tenant.

The other house was sprayed without removal of woodwork. Re-inspections showed disinfestation to have been effectual in both cases, and the tenants were advised as to the best methods of preventing recurrence.

As a matter of routine, all Council houses are inspected for cleanliness, including freedom from vermin, at least twice a year.

The houses of all prospective tenants are inspected before removal to Council houses takes place, and, if signs of vermin are found, all belongings are sprayed with insecticide. One case in which old bug moults, but no live insects, were discovered was so dealt with during 1937.

Disinfestation is carried out by direct labour.

No cases of bug infestation, other than those mentioned, were discovered during the year.

SCHOOLS.—The three public elementary schools in the town were inspected during the year and were found to be free from any serious sanitary defects. The schools are supplied with water from the town mains; suitable wash-basins and water-closets connected with the public sewers are installed and the surfaces of the playgrounds are satisfactory.

Housing.

A total of 43 houses were erected during the year. Thirty-eight of them are of working-class type, and of these 36 were provided by the Local Authority.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	223
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				463
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	53
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				97

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	96

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	80
--	----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A.— <i>Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—</i>	Nil
--	-----

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	30
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners	15
----------------------	----

(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil
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C.—*Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
--	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6
---	---

D.—*Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—* Nil

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV. OVERCROWDING.—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	4
(2) Number of families dwelling therein			...	4
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein			...	31
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	12
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases			...	84
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding		...	...	Nil

In addition to the houses tabulated above, one house which had been represented for a Demolition Order was rendered fit for habitation, on the owner's undertaking, and the Order was not made.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—No legal action in connection with the milk supply was taken during the year.

The registered cowkeepers were reduced from 13 in number to 11 in the course of the year. Of the latter total, 4 are producers and retailers and the remaining 7 are wholesale traders only. The retail purveyors are 4 in number.

At the close of the year licences to produce designated milk were in force in respect of 4 dairy farms. In 2 cases the licences were for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk and in the other 2 for the production of Accredited milk.

One of the herds from which Tuberculin Tested milk is produced and another from which Accredited milk is produced are attested under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme as being free from reactors to Tuberculin.

During the year, 30 visits of inspection were paid to cowsheds and 10 visits to the two milkshops in the town.

The cowshed which was noted as being in course of reconstruction at the end of 1936 was completed. Another cowshed was entirely reconstructed on model lines; and considerable improvements, chiefly consisting of concreting of floors, new troughs and increase of window area, were carried out in 2 other cowsheds. In 3 other cases steam sterilizers were installed. Many minor improvements also were made as the result of informal representations.

Six samples of undesignated milk produced and retailed within the district were submitted on behalf of the Local Authority to examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. The examinations, which included animal inoculation in all cases, gave negative results.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—No legal action with respect to meat or other foods was taken.

The following table gives particulars of carcasses inspected and condemned during the year:—

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	361	—	136	1,674	662
Number inspected ...	182	—	104	1,144	570
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	1	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1·10	—	—	0·87	1·05
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	—	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	4·40	—	—	—	2·98

In the case of all the condemned articles, voluntary surrender was accepted, as no attempt to dispose of any of the meat had been made. The method of disposal in all cases was by burial under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

The 4 registered and 1 licensed slaughter-houses in the district were inspected on many occasions, and, apart from need of limewashing in one case and defects of drainage in 2 other cases, all of which were remedied by informal action, no cause of complaint was found.

Premises on which food other than butchers' meat is sold, stored or prepared for sale were inspected from time to time, and as a result 26 rabbits and 56lbs. of haddock fillets were condemned as unsound. Voluntary surrender was accepted and the articles were buried under supervision.

Ice-cream is made on a fairly large scale by one tradesman, and the conditions of manufacture and storage were found to be satisfactory on all occasions.

The 2 fried-fish shops, and the portable fish-frying ranges which are brought into the town periodically, were always found to be clean and well conducted.

The 7 bakehouses received 25 visits of inspection. Though generally clean and well conducted, informal notices to limewash were necessary on 3 occasions and to remedy defects of windows and drains on 1 occasion. The limewashing was at once carried out, and remedy of the remaining defects was in progress at the end of the year.

**Prevalence of, and Control over,
Infectious and other Diseases.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.			Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	2	2	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...			—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	1	1*	6 (all forms)
Erysipelas	...	...	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	—	—	—

* Wantage Cottage Hospital.

The cases tabulated above presented no features of special interest.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 — 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 — 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 — 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 — 20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 — 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 — 35	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 — 45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 — 55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 — 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

OTHER CAUSES OF SICKNESS.—Influenza was prevalent in the first quarter of the year and was responsible for 2 deaths. Whooping Cough persisted throughout the first six months, but the cases were not numerous and no death resulted. An epidemic of Mumps lasted from the beginning of January to the end of July, and about 200 cases were reported from the elementary schools during this period.

No school was closed for infectious disease, nor was the attendance at any school reduced to below 60 per cent. of the average.

LABORATORY WORK, ETC.—The Local Authority bear the cost of Diphtheria Antitoxin, and also of all bacteriological examinations necessary in the interests of the public health. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied to medical practitioners from my office, but none was issued during the year.

Apart from the samples of milk previously mentioned, no specimens were submitted to bacteriological examination during the year.

Laboratory arrangements are for samples of water to be sent to the County Analyst for chemical analysis and to the laboratories of the Royal Berkshire Hospital for bacteriological examination, for pathological specimens to be sent to the Royal Berkshire Hospital and for samples of milk to be sent to the National Institute for Research in Dairying of the University of Reading.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN
WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT, 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES	FEMALES
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	21	40
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2 Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4 Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6 Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
7 Encephalitis lethargica	..	...	...	...	...	—	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
11 Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	6	11
17 Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
19 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
22 Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
24 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
29 Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
32 Senility	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
33 Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
34 Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
35 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)							
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year							
					Total	1	1
					Legitimate	—	—
					Illegitimate	1	1
LIVE BIRTHS							
					Total	29	23
					Legitimate	25	22
					Illegitimate	4	1
STILLBIRTHS							
					Total	2	—
					Legitimate	1	—
					Illegitimate	1	—
POPULATION	...	...	...	...	...	4,148	

Wantage Rural District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	74,179
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937				11,630
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to				
Rate Books	...	...	...	3,437
Rateable value (end of 1937)		...	...	£57,666
Sum represented by a penny rate		...	...	£255

The district is almost entirely agricultural and residential in character. An engineering works at Compton, which mainly manufactures agricultural implements and employs about 95 hands, and an iron foundry at East Challow, which normally employs about 60 hands, are the only manufacturing industries of importance. A number of racing stables are established on the downs.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	168	87	81	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15·4
	Illegitimate	11	5	6	
Stillbirths	...	10	3	7	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births 53
Deaths	...	132	66	66	{ Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11·3

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ...	Nil	—
Other puerperal causes	Nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	28
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			30
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	24
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

Average rates for the ten years, 1927—1936:—

Birth-rate 15·1	Death-rate 12·6	Infant Mortality 47
-----------------	-----------------	---------------------

General Provision of Health Services for the District.

No changes were made in any of the following services:—

Laboratory Facilities. Hospitals. Clinics and Treatment Centres. Ambulance Facilities. Nursing in the Home.

The ambulance facilities can be regarded as adequate to the needs of a district of this character. For non-infectious and accident cases motor ambulances stationed at Wantage, Didcot and Newbury are available; and all parts of the district are within 10 miles distance of one or other of these centres. For infectious cases the maximum distance from the ambulance station is about 15 miles.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.—The staff consists, in addition to the medical officer of health, of a sanitary inspector and a clerk. Mr. Harry Shepherd, the Sanitary Inspector, who commenced duty on March 1st, 1937, devotes his whole time to sanitary work, having been relieved, by the appointment of a surveyor, of the duty of inspecting new buildings which had been carried out by his predecessors.

He is certified by the Royal Sanitary Institute both as sanitary inspector and as inspector of meat and other foods.

The clerk's whole time is employed in the sanitary department.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER.—No shortage of either public or private supplies was reported during the year.

The comprehensive scheme for the provision of a public piped supply for East Challow, Childrey, Letcombe Bassett, Letcombe Regis and Sparsholt was completed in February, and a public piped supply for Blewbury was completed in April.

By agreement, a piped supply for the R.A.F. aerodrome near Harwell was provided by the Local Authority and was brought into use in August. The water is derived from a special boring in the chalk, and pumping tests showed the amount available to be well in excess of the estimated requirements. The supply, however, had not been very long in use before the consumption greatly exceeded the estimate and the need of a supplementary source of supply to guard against

possible future shortage arose. The experimental boring for the supply of East and West Hendred, to which reference was made in the report for 1936, provided the solution of the difficulty, as tests showed the water to be not only pure but also in great abundance and much in excess of the amount required for the needs of the two villages. The linking up of this source of supply with the aerodrome pumping station has been approved by the Council.

The boring for East and West Hendred was completed in August, but the laying of the mains had not been started by the end of the year.

In connection with the waterworks for East and West Hanney, arrangements for the installation early in 1938 of special filters to keep back the fine sand which has occasionally been pumped with the water were made.

Samples of water from the five public supplies in the district were submitted to both chemical and bacteriological examination during the year, and in all cases satisfactory results were given. Two chemical analyses and two bacteriological tests of each supply were made. In every instance the analyst reported absence of any evidence of pollution, and the bacteriologist reported low total numbers of bacteria, at both room temperature and blood-heat, together with absence of *B.Coli* from 100 c.c. of water.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—A scheme for improvement of the system of sewerage of the villages of Ardington and Lockinge was approved by the Council and was the subject of a Ministry of Health Inquiry held in September. The system, which had been in operation for over 30 years, had become inadequate for the volume of sewage to be dealt with, and the scheme included the provision of larger sewers with improvements to the sewage disposal works. Consent to borrow the sum of £2,070 for the purpose was eventually granted by the Ministry and arrangements to commence the work early in 1938 were made,

Improvements were made during the year, by direct labour, to the respective disposal works of the villages of Childrey, East Hendred and Letcombe Regis.

No other changes in drainage and sewerage were made, but a scheme for improvement and extension of the system of sewerage of the village of Harwell was approved by the Council and an application for consent to borrow the necessary sum was made to the Ministry of Health.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—No changes were made in the system of collection of domestic refuse. The methods of disposal by means of partially controlled tipping having proved unsatisfactory, a system of fully controlled tipping, on approved lines, was substituted in April, 1937, and has been extremely satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—Mr. Shepherd, the Sanitary Inspector, has supplied the following summary of work done during the year by himself and his predecessor:—

No. of Different premises visited	...	...	460
„ Inspections made	...	...	916
„ Complaints received	...	...	66
„ Defects or Nuisances discovered		...	133
„ Notices served	{	Informal	80
		Statutory	2
„ Prosecutions	...	...	—
NO. OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED—			
As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, &c.		...	3
„ Drains or Cesspools	...	...	19

As to Pigs or other animals	...	...	8
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughter-houses	...	...	15
„ Deficient or impure water	...	...	48
„ Unclean houses	...	...	5
„ Polluted ditches, streams, &c.	...	...	5
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits	...	...	2
„ Other defects or nuisances	...	...	1
No. of Premises disinfected	...	...	14
„ Water samples taken for analysis	...	...	78
„ Wells closed	...	...	1
„ Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	...	...	23
„ New wells sunk	...	...	8
„ Houses connected with water mains	...	...	210
„ Water certificates granted	...	...	42
„ Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food	...	...	7
„ Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	20
Canal Boats, No. of Inspections	...	...	—
Common Lodging-houses	{ No. on Register ... No. of Inspections ...		— —
Milkshops	No. on Register	...	—
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„ „	...	158
Slaughter-houses	„ „	...	8

Milkshops	No. of Inspections	...	—
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms	„	„	195
Slaughter-houses	„	„	322
Piggeries	„	„	10

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

I. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Inspections made.	Number of written notices.	Prosecutions.
1. Factories ... (Including factory laundries).	3	0	0
2. Workshops ... (Including workshop laundries).	68	0	0
3. Workplaces ...	0	0	0
Total	71	0	0

II. DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found.	Remedied.	Number of Defects Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecutions.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of cleanliness	0	0	0	0
Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts:—				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake-houses				
...	9	9	0	0
Other Offences	0	0	0	0
Totals	9	9	0	0

III. HOME WORK.—OUTWORKERS LISTS. Nil.

SHOPS.—No action was taken during the year under those provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, which relate to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences. In the great majority of cases the shops in the district are privately owned, and are staffed only by members of the family of the owner. The few shops in which members of more than one family are employed are provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No action was taken or needed.

SWIMMING BATHS OR POOLS.—The only swimming bath or pool open to the public is a small bath at Harwell which is used by children and is under the control of the Parish Council. The bath has been constructed from obsolete brick and concrete settling tanks, and its dimensions are approximately 30 feet by 20 feet, with a depth of water of about 3 feet. The water is normally derived from a small stream, which is fed by springs, and the flow through the bath is continuous. In times of drought the stream fails and the public supply is then utilised. At such times the bath is emptied and refilled twice a week.

This bath is open from May to July and the bathers average only about 30 a week.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—Bugs are rare in the district; but during the year a complaint of infestation of two of a row of five privately-owned houses was received. Inspection showed all five of the houses to be more or less infested. Arrangements for temporary vacation of the houses were made and hydrogen cyanide fumigation was carried out by a firm of specialists, while the bedding was treated in a steam disinfecter. No signs of recurrence have since been noticed.

The cost of disinfestation was shared equally between the Local Authority and the owner of the cottages.

No routine methods for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses are employed.

So far, no signs of infestation of Council houses have been found.

SCHOOLS.—No serious sanitary defects were discovered during inspection of the elementary schools.

Two of the schools were connected with newly established public water supplies during the year, and in two other cases arrangements to connect shortly were made.

Housing.

A total of 42 houses, of which 37 are working-class dwellings, were built during the year. None of the new houses was provided by the Local Authority.

Under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, grants of £100 in each case were made towards the reconditioning of 2 houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	499
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	983
--	-----

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	..	...	386
--	-----	----	-----	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	693
--	-----

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 60

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 230

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 72

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A.—*Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners . . . 2

(b) By local authority in default of owners Nil

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners ... 2

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil

c.—Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	14
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	44

d.—Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930, or Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

Nil

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV. OVERCROWDING.—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	1
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	6
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	Nil
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	15
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	75½
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	Nil

Apart from houses tabulated above, 2 houses which had been represented for Demolition Orders were rendered fit for habitation, on the owners' undertakings, without the Orders having been made.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—No legal action with respect to milk was taken during the year. A total of 195 visits were paid to the 158 dairy farms in the district, and, in addition to improvements effected in methods of milking and of handling milk, structural improvements were carried out at 12 farms in consequence of informal notices.

One licence to pasteurise milk was granted during the year.

At the close of the year, 11 dairy farms were licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk and 28 farms for the production of Accredited milk. Herds at 3 of the former farms were attested under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme as being free from reactors to Tuberculin.

One sample of pasteurised milk, which was examined bacteriologically and also by means of the Phosphatase test, and gave good results, was the only sample of milk submitted on behalf of the Local Authority to bacteriological or other examination.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—No legal action with respect to meat or other foods was taken.

The following table gives particulars of carcasses inspected and meat condemned:—

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	not	known			
Number inspected ...	53	30	88	449	264
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	1	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	3·77	—	—	·22	1·89
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	5	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	16·67	—	—	1·52

No attempt to dispose of any of the condemned meat had been made, and voluntary surrender was accepted in all cases.

Disposal was by means of burial under supervision.

Other premises on which food is sold, stored or prepared for sale were visited from time to time and no article unfit for human consumption was discovered.

Defects in bakehouses consisted of delay in carrying out the statutory limewashing in 8 cases and a defective floor in one case. These defects were remedied as the result of informal notices.

**Prevalence of, and Control over,
Infectious and other Diseases.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.			Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	14	5	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	2	1*	—
Pneumonia	...	...	2	—	2 (all forms)
Erysipelas	...	...	2	1	—
Malaria	...	...	1	—	—

* Royal Berkshire Hospital.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
1	1	0	1	0	0	0

The case of Diphtheria was a child at Letcombe Regis, who was in attendance at the village school up to the day of illness. No other cases of sore throat were known to have occurred amongst the scholars and the source of infection remained undiscovered.

Of the total of 14 cases of Scarlet Fever, 9 occurred in the parish of Grove and the remainder arose singly in 5 other parishes. Four of the cases at Grove were children of one family. They were of mild type, and medical attendance was not obtained until the first patient had been ill 5 days, by which time the other 3 children had become infected. In the meantime, 2 members of another family who had associated with these children had caught the disease.

All six cases were isolated in their own homes.

Three more cases arose in a third family in the village. The first two of these apparently became infected by convalescent members of the first family, who had not obeyed the injunctions to keep to their own premises. These two children were sent to the isolation hospital, as conditions for isolation at home were unfavourable. Twelve days after their return from hospital a sister fell with the disease and was evidently a "return case."

Both cases of Puerperal Pyrexia ended in complete recovery.

The case of Malaria was a soldier who had a recurrence of an attack of the disease contracted abroad.

TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age Periods.			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	—	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
5	—	10	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
10	—	15	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
15	—	20	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..
20	—	25	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	—	35	2	1	...	...	1	...	..	...
35	—	45	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
45	—	55	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55	—	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			2	4	0	1	3	3	0	1

The seven fatal cases of Tuberculosis had been duly notified.

OTHER CAUSES OF SICKNESS.—Influenza was prevalent in January and February, but caused no deaths. Measles broke out in four parishes during the first quarter of the year and in three other parishes during September, October and November, but no death was attributed to this disease. Whooping Cough was reported from seven different parishes during the first half of the year and was responsible for one death.

Otherwise, no noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity, apart from notifiable disease, were evident.

No school was closed for infectious disease, but at the following schools the attendance was reduced to below 60 per cent. of the average by the diseases and during the periods stated:—

Brightwalton C.of E.	Influenza	I week in January.
Denchworth	„	I „ „ „
Fawley C. of E.	„	I „ „ „
Peasemore	„	I „ „ „
Chaddleworth C. of E.	„	I „ „ Feb.

Farnborough Parochial	Influenza	2 weeks in Jan. and Feb.
Hampstead Norris	Influenza and Whooping Cough	2 „ „ January.
Compton C. of E.	„ „ „ „	6 „ „ Jan. and Feb.
Aldworth	„ „ „ „	3 „ „ Feb. and Mar.
East Challow C. of E.	Measles	5 „ „ Jan. Feb. and Mar.
Ardington and Lockinge	„	3 „ „ March.
East Ilsley C.	Measles and Chicken-pox	5 „ „ Feb. and March.
Beedon C. of E.	Chicken-pox	3 „ „ May.

LABORATORY WORK, ETC.—The Local Authority bear the cost of Antitoxin used for treatment of Diphtheria, and also the cost of bacteriological examinations necessary in the interests of the public health.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied from my office, at the request of medical practitioners, and 3 ampoules (8,000 units each) were issued during the year.

Specimens examined bacteriologically at the cost of the Local Authority consisted of 38 swabs examined for Diphtheria Bacilli, with 1 positive and 37 negative results.

The examinations were made in the laboratories of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT, 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES	FEMALES
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	66	66
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	1	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	1
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	3	3
10	Other tuberculous diseases...	...	...	...	...	—	1
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	2	—
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	11	13
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	—
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	2	4
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	19	21
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	1	—
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	—	2
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	3
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	1	1
21	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
22	Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	1	—
23	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	—
25	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	1	—
26	Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	...	—	1
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	—	—
29	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	1	—
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	—	3
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—
34	Other violence	...	...	...	...	2	1
35	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	9	8
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	1	1
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)							
	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Polionmyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year							
				Total	...	4	1
				Legitimate	...	4	1
				Illegitimate	...	—	—
LIVE BIRTHS							
				Total	...	92	87
				Legitimate	...	87	81
				Illegitimate	...	5	6
STILLBIRTHS							
				Total	...	3	7
				Legitimate	...	3	7
				Illegitimate	...	—	—
POPULATION						11,630	

